WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 3 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | JULY 2003

Remarks for The Evergreen State College Graduation

Cindy Corrie

What a joyful day! I know Rachel is dancing somewhere in the heavens as she peers down upon all of us and celebrates with all of you who are graduating today. She will cheer loudly and lovingly when her colleagues cross this stage to collect their diplomas, and she will offer an especially triumphant salute to her dear, dear friend and ours Colin Reese. I know, too, that Rachel is out there somewhere impishly smiling at us—her poppy and her mama—coming to pick up her diploma for her because she is busy elsewhere.

Rachel spent her lifetime in Olympia and a good deal of time here at Evergreen—in and out—finding her way, finding her voice, finding friends. One of the most powerfully healing pieces of these past three months without Rachel has been for us to enter a bit into her Evergreen community. We thank you for letting us in, for helping us to better understand Rachel's experience here, to better understand her journey. We thank, especially, those of you who continue tirelessly to help us pursue Rachel's dreams.

In evaluating some of her work at Evergreen, Rachel wrote, "I have developed confidence as a participant in a collaborative classroom setting, as an investigator of local history, and as an organizer of community events. I have worked to develop bridges between local history and current events, between art and social change work, between student activists and the broader community. The work that I did this year will continue beyond the end of the program and beyond my time at Evergreen."

And later, she wrote, "I developed a whole different modus operandi through the work I did in this program. I think giving up comforting habits and behavior patterns is one of the most radical things that can happen."

Rachel's interests and activism extended to many different areas—labor, the homeless, the delivery of mental health care, the cost of higher education, the environment, peace—but now, she will always be connected to the Palestinian people whom she joined as she worked nonviolently to resist the cruel oppression of the thirty-six year Israeli Occupation. Rachel's decision to go to Palestine was an outgrowth of her discoveries here. She wrote, "Labor history in the Pacific Northwest has been particularly impacted by war, and the West has been deeply marked by racism. The brutal history drives home the importance of resistance and it makes national and international events relevant on a local level. So much of this has happened before. We can look at that history and then choose which side we want to be on now, and how willing we are to fight."

"Studying the history of this area roots me. It makes me more conscious of the land and more conscious of myself and of the people around me as actors in history. Studying local history is motivating. We've certainly waded in the same water and wandered on the same beaches as very brave people. It makes bravery seem more possible."

Rachel told us that going to Gaza was one of the most important things she had done in her life. With other activists, she spent nights sleeping at wells in Rafah to protect them from demolition. She stood between Palestinian municipal water workers who were trying to repair wells and the Israeli military towers from which shots rang down, harassing the workers and the internationals. She documented the destruction of Palestinian olive orchards, gardens, and greenhouses as well as harassment of Palestinians at checkpoints. She learned Arabic from Palestinian children and helped them with their English homework. She drank sweet tea with Palestinian grandmothers, held wiggling babies, and danced with children in the street. She wrote, "Know that I have a lot of very nice Palestinians looking after me. I have a small flu bug, and got some very nice lemony drinks to cure me. Also, the woman who keeps the key for the well where we sleep keeps asking me about you. She doesn't speak a word of English, but she asks about my mom pretty frequently—wants to make sure I'm calling you."

Rachel wrote, "I think about the fact that no amount of documentary viewing and word of mouth could have prepared me for the reality of the situation here. You just can't imagine it unless you see it and even then you are always well aware that your experience is not at all the reality—what with the difficulties the Israeli Army would face if they shot an unarmed U.S. citizen, and with the fact that I have money to buy water when the army destroys wells, and, of course, the fact that I have the option of leaving. Nobody in my family has been shot, driving in their car, by a rocket launcher from a tower at the end of a major street in my hometown. I have a home. I am allowed to go see the ocean. Ostensibly, it is still quite difficult for me to be held for months or years on end without a trial. When I leave for school or work I can be relatively certain that there will not be a heavily armed soldier waiting half way between Mud Bay and downtown Olympia at a checkpoint—a soldier with the power to decide whether I can go about my business, and whether I can get home again when I'm done. So, if I feel outrage at arriving and entering briefly and incompletely into the world into which these children exist, I wonder conversely about how it would be for them to arrive in my world. They know that children in the United States don't usually have their parents shot and they know they sometimes get to see the ocean. But once you have seen the ocean and lived in a silent place, where water is taken for granted and not stolen in the night, once you have experienced the reality of a world that isn't surrounded by murderous towers, tanks, armed settlements and now a giant metal wall, I wonder if you can forgive the world for all the years of your childhood spent existing—just existing—in resistance to the constant stranglehold of the world's fourth largest military—backed by the world's only superpower—in its attempt to erase you from your home.

That is something I wonder about these children. I wonder what would happen if they really knew."

In her work, Rachel joined hands with Jewish-Americans and with Israelis who are working to end the occupation. Two of the co-founders of the International Solidarity Movement are Jewish—one American, one Israeli. At any given time, twenty to thirty per cent of the ISM activists are Jewish. Rachel worked with Israeli peace activists as she tried to better understand the destruction of the Palestinian water supply. She received guidance from a re-

(continued page 9)

LEIU - Brutality in Seattle

Drew Hendricks

On June 2nd, around 700 people gathered in Westlake Center to protest the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit, which held a conference in Seattle for the week of June 2-6th 2003. In response to the published plans for the protest, the Seattle Police Department mobilized 120 riot police in full armor, some armed with AR-15 assault rifles. In addition to the armored police, Seattle PD deployed approximately 65 bicycle police, four horsemen, several vans, and an undetermined number of undercover police officers within the march itself. The overwhelming amount of force shown on the streets of Seattle was too much to be wasted; it had to be used.

Twelve people were arrested for various charges during the march, and several were injured seriously. A legal observer, Attorney Larry Hildes of Bellingham, was shot in the back with some kind of so-called "non-lethal" projectile and had to be hospitalized when his back seized up. Early reports indicated it might have been a dowel rod or a flash-bang grenade.

Mr. Hildes was not arrested. He was wearing a bright green hat, shirt, and pants.

Laurel Smith, an Olympia activist, was also injured during her arrest by officers who beat her head against the pavement until she lost consciousness. A woman named Bridget O'Brien was also arrested, after being run down by a squad of bicycle police for no reason early in the march.

Her friend was arrested as well; his name was unavailable at press time.

Both Laurel and Bridget reported having their belongings "lost" by police, and being released from King County Jail around 3am.

Police along the route of the march blocked all exits out of the immediate area of the hotel, locking the crowd of protesters into a three-street area to the East, South, and West of the Red Lion Inn on 5th downtown. At the corner of Pine and 5th, the police concentrated a line of riot police, bicycles and horses which was eventually used as a plunger to chase the crowd south around the hotel and back to Westlake Center, a half-block to the North of the Hotel on 4th.

The spark for the crackdown seemed to be the arrest of a young flag-smoldering person who climbed upon the plexiglass awning above the retail space to the North of the Red Lion on 5th. For around 40 minutes the person stood on the awning out of reach of officers, at

(continued page 5)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

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Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

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WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, July 25th

WIP Meeting

Sunday July 27th

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BEFORE YOU FORGET, GET INVOLVED! (SEE BELOW)

Dissenters' Picnic at Yauger Park

Dissenters' Picnic is a celebration for those with a vision of a better, more democratic future for the United States. The entire community is invited to come to this alternative potluck, picnic celebration that encourages dissent from the usual flag-waving fervor. The picnic is planned to provide a safe place for everyone to come together in a fun, kid-friendly atmosphere.

The Dissenters' Picnic will be Friday, July 4th from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. The picnic will be inside and around the Yauger Park shelter, located next to the children's playground along Capital Mall Drive. Yauger Park is located along Cooper Point Road and Capital Mall Drive in Olympia.

There will be music, a resistance art display, and activities for both kids and adults. The picnic is a potluck, but some refreshments will be available. All beverages must be non-alcoholic. Grills will be available for those that bring either veggies or meat to cook.

In a time when civil liberties are under threat and the US is increasingly taking a militaristic and imperialist stance in the world, it is important that there be an opportunity for both the expression of hope for peace and justice as well as a celebration of dissent and resistance from the current state of affairs. While some say that the progressive community is too negative, critical thinking should be valued and blind patriotism is dangerous. Dissenters can come together to celebrate and support each other in working for change.

Dissenters' Picnic is sponsored by the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) and the United for Peace – Thurston County. The OMJP is a local movement made up of students, activists, educators, and other community members that are committed to building a mass movement of justice and peace. For more information visit the OMJP website at www.omjp.org. United for Peace – Thurston County is a coalition of Thurston County organizations and individuals dedicated to peace and justice issues, both at home and abroad. Contact Simona Sharoni at info@United4PeaceTC.org or (360) 867-6196 for more information about the coalition.

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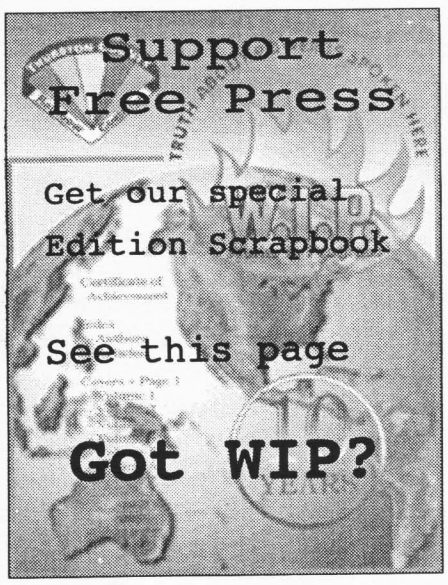

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JULY 2003

Beware the Pentagon

Bulging Pentagon budget

In 2004 the Pentagon and other defense programs will receive $400 billion of the $785 billion planned for the spending bills. (This does not include the occupation of Iraq, which will be covered by a later, supplemental bill of up to $35 billion.) Very little of the money will go towards the war on terrorism or homeland security, which are principally paid for by other agencies like the FBI and the CIA.

Transformation by Rumsfeld

Amid his bid to "modernize" the Department of Defense, Rumsfeld's proposed Defense Transformation for the 21st Century Act of 2003 would eliminate the existing civil service system for nearly 700,000 federal civilian employees, provide "exemptions from a host of critical environmental statutes", and repeal requirements for the Department to submit over 100 reports to Congress and "'sunset' all remaining reports, except the Secretary's annual report to Congress."

Military Occupation of Iraq

Civilian L. Paul Bremer III, head of the American occupation, has imposed censorship of press and television, outlawed any "gatherings, pronouncements or publications" that call for opposition to US occupation, and canceled the first election in Iraq since the fall of Hussein. He has also vowed to sell off government-owned companies and write new laws to encourage foreign investment. Bremer reports directly to Donald Rumsfeld.

US Air Force Space Command

The US is now developing new weapons and spacecrafts to hit any target on earth within seconds" and dominate any theater of war from space. In addition, the Air Force Space Command Strategic Master Plan "states that the US will not allow any other power to get a foothold in space." *"As guardians of the High Frontier, Air Force Space Command has the vision and the people to ensure the United States achieves space superiority today and in the future."* (General Lance W Lord)

Sources: *New York Times; Commondreams.org; The Guardian; Sun-Times; Sunday Herald; Associated Press*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
You call Donald Rumsfeld and tell him our sorry asses are ready to go home. **Pfc. Matthew C. O'Dell, 1st Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division**		**1** 2002: Chilean court rules Pinochet mentally unfit to stand trial 2002: Dozens killed when US airstrikes hit Afghanistan wedding	**2** 1915: Bomb rips up Senate reception room 1917: East St. Louis: Many blacks shot, hanged in vicious race rioting 20-75 dead	**3** 2000: AP poll: voters split on who is more honest, Gore or Bush 2002: World-class boomerang pro stopped by airport security	**4** 2002: WHO says 2/3s of expected AIDS cases in next 8 years are preventable; a global campaign could prevent 29 million cases	**5** 2002: Arkansas Supreme Court strikes same-sex sodomy law 2002: Bush administration strips Chinooks of federal recognition
6 1904: Because they have no faith in political promises of Democrats or Republicans, blacks form the National Liberty party	**7** 2001: Temporary 4th Ave bridge is opened 2002: Report at World AIDS Conference says life expectancy to decline in 51 countries	**8** 2002: Israeli government endorses bill allowing Jews to bar Arab citizens from living in many Israeli communities;	**9** 1960: Premier Nikita Khrushchev threatens military response if the United States attempts to oust the Castro regime in Cuba	**10** 1997: US House votes to eliminate funding for the NEA 2001: State of Streets Report rates 20% of Lacey streets poor	**11** 2002: Dozens picket Mother Joseph's protesting high turnover 2002: 1st direct shipment of US apples in 40 years arrive in Cuba	**12** 2002: 100s of Nigerian women occupy a Chevron Texaco oil export terminal demanding jobs for their sons
13 2002: Bush says the "greatest need for our economy" is restoring our confidence in the integrity of our business leaders	**14** 1798: Congress passes Sedition Act of 1798, making it a crime to print "false, scandalous and malicious" writing against the government	**15** 2002: US Senate okays corporate crime bill 2002: Bush gives the okay for Navy to use the new sonar that injures whales	**16** 2002: Intel says it eliminating 4,000 jobs 2002: Bush unveils his "National Strategy for Homeland Security" program	**17** 2002: Jeb Bush's daughter gets a 3-day sentence 2002: City of Olympia begins inspecting Forest Glen	**18** 2002: University of Alaska researchers report that 24 more cubic miles of Alaskan glaciers are disappearing each year	**19** 2002: Bush signs bill that recognizes infants who survive abortions, even temporarily, as human beings under federal law
20 1894: Federal troops break Pullman strikers 2002: Citizen salary commission proposes 20% raise for Thurston Commissioners	**21** 2002: World.Com files for Chapter 11; this is the same company that caused a $84 million loss by the WA state retirement mutual funds	**22** 2002: Bush withhold $34 million from UN family planning 2002: Israeli missile attack on a house in the Gaza Strip kills 11	**23** 2002: Medicare drug bill fails in US Senate 2002: Bush signs bill designating Yucca Mountain as nation's nuclear waste dump	**24** 2002: Hose votes to expel Traficant 2002: Israel blames faulty military intelligence for deaths of 9 children and 4 adults	**25** 1900- Angry White mob terrorizes New Orleans 2002: Unemployment rate in Argentina hits 21.5 percent	**26** 2002: Deaths of 3 linked to Special Operations soldiers 2002: House votes to create new Homeland Security Cabinet post
27 1998: Ralph Nader urges Bill Gates to share his wealth; 2002: Fed audit shows DSHS provides poor mental health services	**28** 2002: Ariel Sharon orders his army to ease restrictions on Palestinians due to increasing signs of popular resistance	**29** 2002: Thurston Commissioners to appeal Nisqually Valley asphalt plant ruling 2002: 1,000s of Palestinians break curfew	**30** 2002: Justice Department report says for every 100,000 3,535 blacks are incarcerated, 1,177 Hispanics and only 462 whites	**31** 2002: Fed judge rules prisoners held in Guantanamo are not in the US and so do not fall under the jurisdiction of federal courts		

The Pentagon is advocating a massive covert action program to overthrow Iran's ruling ayatollahs...
ABC News, May 30, 2003

DISSENT AND INDEPENDENCE DAY

Jenni Minner

Years ago, I sat in a boat in Lake Union and watched the largest military helicopter I had ever seen descend upon Seattle crowds with a gigantic flag attached to it. It was a frightening display and strangely prescient of today's growing ideology of US dominance and of an increasingly rigid political climate in which citizens are now expected to be blindly patriotic, unquestioning, and controllable as they cower in front of their television sets waiting for the world's terrorists to be obliterated. The message of Independence Day is one of military might written in the sky with firecrackers, paraphrased in parades with marching soldiers that are either real or symbolic, and sung in the lines of the most sacred of American songs: "rockets red glare" and the "bombs bursting in air." The Fourth of July should be a time to challenge the usual symbols of America. We must reclaim the holiday from either vacant consumerism (hot dog and flag sales) or from rites of fervent flagwaving.

It is my fear that the Fourth of July is increasingly being used to whip up the winds of nationalism; a wind that is fanning flames of conservatism. At the very least, Independence Day is becoming a day to simplify the concept of the US – simplify it in such a way that in obscures the fact that there is much to criticize. Daily civil liberties are being eroded, military initiatives are being launched for geopolitical domination, corporate and government scandals are being glossed over in the media, resources are being appropriated from the poor and redistributed to the rich, and entire ecosystems are being commodified and sold off.

The Fourth of July should be a day of dissent. It should be a day of to declare independence from U.S. neocolonialism, from oppression inside the US and abroad, from militarism and America's growing arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. It should be a day to resist the trite displays of nationalism and to challenge Independence Day to be more than barbecues, fireworks, and a day off work (if you are lucky). While the Bush Administration continues to pursue hegemony in the world and an agenda of radical conservatism, it is the duty of all who recognize the administration's tyranny to challenge it.

Independence Day should be a day of reflection; a time to reflect on the history of the United States. We should remember a history that includes both a revolutionary war to defeat the British Empire and as well as decades of U.S. imperialist expansion and domination. It should be a day to commemorate the history of democracy in this country. A history of democracy that has expanded over time to include more who were previously excluded, but that continues to afford more power to privileged groups.

While there are lots of other opportunities to remember those that have fought in US wars and military actions (traditionally Memorial Day and Veteran's Day), we should declare Independence Day a time to remember those that have fought to improve the US, who have resisted its oppression, or who have contributed to the dream of democracy. We should remember those that have fought and died in the Civil Rights, Peace, and Union movements. We should remember the Native Americans who were slaughtered in the name of manifest destiny and those that persevered and continue to live in a profoundly unequal society.

There have been charges that the left is reactive, negative, and "against things" rather than for positive change. First of all, I think that this is largely untrue. More importantly, there needs to be forces for change that challenge even the most sacred rituals and symbols of mainstream society. There needs to be a space created for those that dissent, for those who are not motivated to cry out in the emotions of patriotism but out of sheer frustration and anger at the multiplying threats to justice, peace, equality, and basic human rights.

Not only is it important to challenge the monolith view that the US is always the freest most democratic place on earth, but it is important to challenge the concepts of patriotism. While the dictionary definition of patriotism is to love, support, and defend one's country, the meaning of the patriotism seems to be increasingly shifting towards an unquestioning defense of the country against any sort of change or critical analysis.

There are some that see the glimmer of hope for humanity beyond the current system of nation-states. From this point of view, patriotism is not only irrelevant, but dangerously complicit in a profoundly undemocratic global system. However, even for those that continue to place their faith into a future global community of democratic nations, love of one's country should not be used as justification for defending the status quo. Defense of one's country, as mentioned in the definition of patriotism, should be transformed to the defense of all people's equality and right to participate in a just and free democracy.

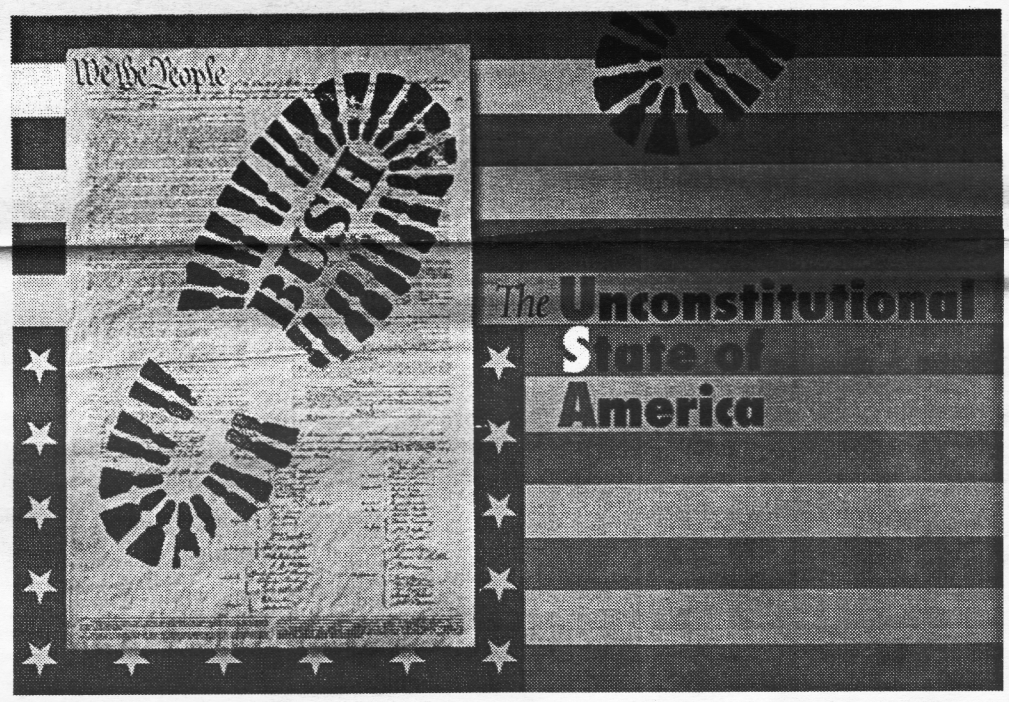
For the progressive community, all holidays can provide the opportunity for social situations in which the activists can support one another in dissent and resistance for social change. While this may or may not mean that there is a rally for every holiday, every holiday provides the opportunity to create alternative celebrations that are inviting to even the newest of the growing community of disenfranchised. As more people wake up to the need to participate in change, people that have never been activists or that may never call themselves activists must have entry into the activist community. This is where alternative holiday celebrations should be created that are inviting to all. A festival or picnic can seem like a safer place for someone to get involved than walking into a meeting that has its established agenda, group dynamics, and momentum or a rally where one marches down the center of a street.

Independence Day is an important day to demand democracy, to challenge simplistic views of the US, and to call on citizens of the growing global social and economic justice movement to stand up for freedom and equality for all. We must build a community of dissenters that are supported in working towards peace and justice and that can challenge the forces of conservatism and the ideology of military domination that pervade US policies today.

Declare independence from a tyrannical state of affairs...

Fourth of July

DISSENTERS' PICNIC



Yauger Park Picnic Shelter
July 4th 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Grills available for veggies or meat. Bring a dish and/or beverages (no alcohol) to share.

This is a kid-friendly picnic for those that believe a BETTER, more DEMOCRATIC, more JUST, and more PEACEFUL America is possible.

Sponsored by the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace and United for Peace – Thurston County

(LEIU, continued)

one time trying to ignite the nylon flag with a lighter. When the person decended, an undercover officer in the crowd grabbed the person and threw them over the riot fence toward the Red Lion entrance. Another undercover officer in the crowd began punching random people nearby. Pepper spray (in 40-ounce pressurized bottles) was unleashed by several bicycle police, and flash grenades were thrown into the crowd. The gathering surged toward 5th and Union, and a tense standoff held there for a few minutes.

The arrest and assault of Laurel Smith at 5th and Union apparently set off the next round of explosions and again, the crowd fled down the only avenue open - West down Union toward the corner at 4th, and back North to Westlake.

This time the crowd was not allowed to stop.

Once the group reached Westlake, bicycle police surrounded the East exit and riot police formed a loose line across the opposite side of Pike toward the retail shops there. Apparently they thought we might go "shopping."

For a few tense minutes it seemed that the entire group would be swept and many more arrests would be made. Then the East end of Westlake was unplugged and small groups of people filtered out of the area to go home, as medics tended eyes and faces, backs and skulls for blunt and chemical trauma.

Later, many people picked up pieces of the projectiles which had been used; plastic round shot frired from grenade launcers like oversized shotgun shells; Flash-bang grenade handles with serial number tags; little rubber shot from "stinger" grenades; wooden dowels about 1.5 inches in diameter, and 2 inches long.

LEIU:After-Action Report

Drew Hendricks

Police arrested 12 people, injuring several seriously, after a peaceful march June 2nd against the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit (LEIU) convention Seattle. Some of the people arrested live in Olympia and are requesting help finding video of their arrests.

Laurel Smith, a union shop steward and activist, who is also a former Evergreen student, was diagnosed by Capital Medical Center staff as having multiple head injuries sustained after police officers slammed her head into the pavement at 5th and Union four or more times. She momentarily lost consciousness during the arrest and only awoke in the police van on the way to the precinct lockup. In pain and shock from the beating received from Seattle police officers, not to mention the large dose of pepper spray, she suddenly began to sing. When she arrived at the precinct, the driver of the van complimented her on her voice.

"I just do this for the paycheck, she recalls him saying.

Smith helps coordinate the Books to Prisoners program in the Olympia area and was not looking for a confrontation with police when she went to Seattle.

"It was a benign and agreeable actions," she said, describing the 700 person symbolic protest as largely ineffective. She said she would probably not be attending any protests in the near future.

"I already choose my protests carefully—now even more carefully. Now is the time for creativity. Simply showing up in the street with noise makers is not going to do it."

She described the action as draining, citing the small numbers who turned out and the fact that no jail support was organized for those who were arrested. She was released by Seattle Police at 3:30am and found herself alone on the street, dazed and in pain. She was released without her wallet or belongings and had still not received them almost two weeks later.

Her arrest report claims she assaulted an officer, interfering with his duties. Accounts published elsewhere described the assault upon the officer as "Éspit on his safety glasses and left arm." It is not known how well the officer is recovering from the misdemeanors suffered against his person.

In the first two weeks since her arrest, Laurel had not been allowed to sleep for more than an hour or two at a time. Her doctor recommended she be checked several times each night for symptoms of further brain damage due to blood clots or cerebral bleeding. Early in her incarceration, she had been given aspirin to help with the pain. However, aspirin is not recommended for people with head injuries since it promotes bleeding. A nurse at the jail also offered her more aspirin. She recalls the nurse saying she "could not have a concussion" prior to any examination. Later on, the nurse pressed her for details of what she had done to deserve arrest. Smith became suspicious that the nurse was trying to elicit a confession, and even began wondering whether she was a nurse at all.

Laurel Smith was arrested around 8:36pm at 5th and Union. She was wearing her blonde hair tied back, black pinstripe pants and a black tee shirt. She had an orange-red shoulder bag which was last seen in the precinct house where she was first incarcerated, before transport to the jail. She is about 5'7" and is of slight build. If you saw her being arrested on the south-east corner of the hotel, near the line of riot police at 5th and Union, she needs your testimony.

If you have photographs or video, she needs that as well. Anyone who has information can call Olympia Copwatch investigator Drew Hendricks at (360) 455-4336. We will give your contact information to Laurel Smith or arrange a meeting.

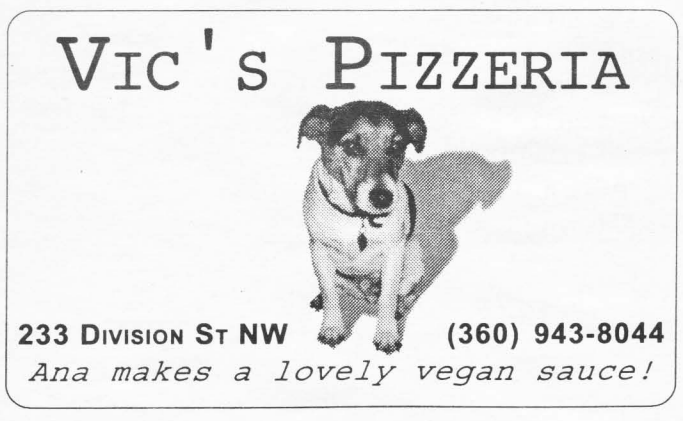
LEIU Organizers are from Olympia Area

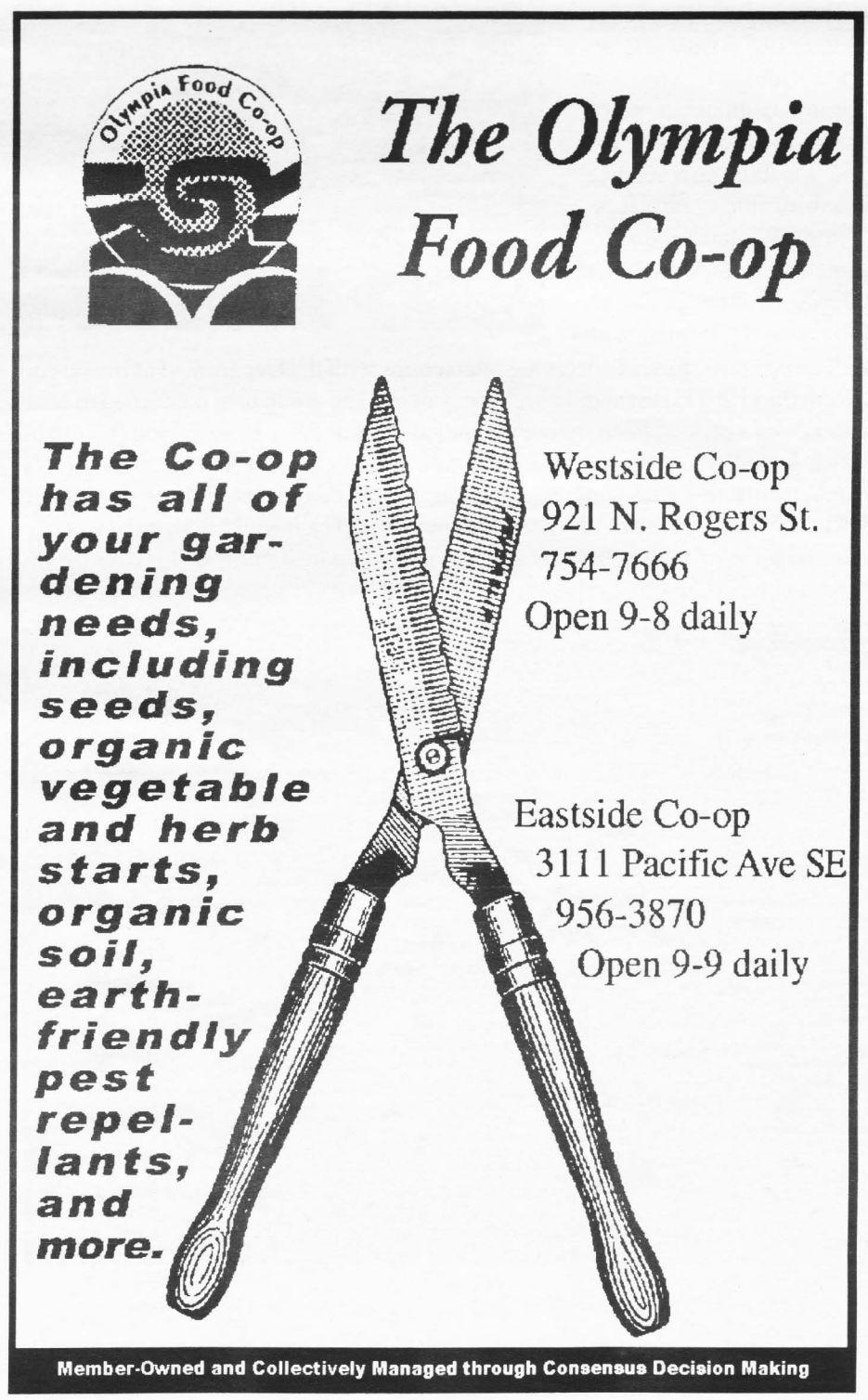
Drew Hendricks

The people who handled registration for the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit (LEIU) conference in Seattle in early June were Washington State Patrol personnel who live in Olympia and Lacey. Michelle L Hahn works for the Washington State Patrol Criminal Intelligence Unit and was listed as contact for persons interested in registering for the conference. The published phone number and PO Box for LEIU registration

belong to the WSP. LEIU, supposedly a private corporation, was not found to be registered as such in California, Oregon, Washington, or New York.

Michelle Hahn lives in the Tanglewilde development in Lacey. Her boss, Lt. Marc W. Lamoreaux of the Investigative Assistance Division, attended the LEIU conference as a participant and responded in part to a request for documents under Washington's Open Records Law. He lives in the 3500 block of 33rd Way NW, just a short distance from the Evergreen State College campus in northwest rural Olympia. He moved there from Lacey sometime in 2000 or 2001. He can be reached by telephone at (360) 753-6800, or by e-mail at mlamore@wsp.wa.gov.

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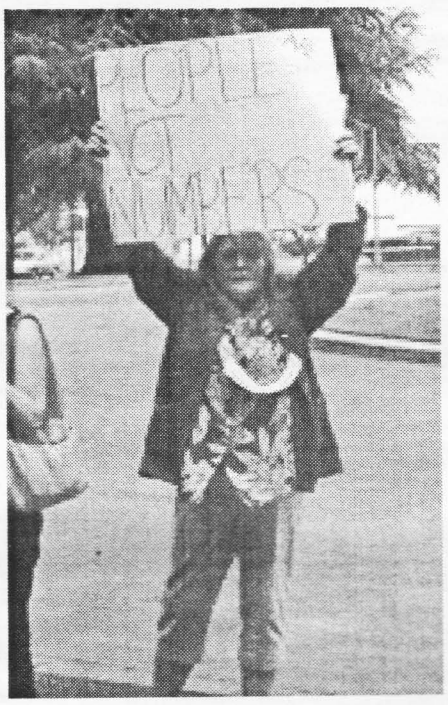
Community Response to Welfare Cuts

Gabrielle Jordan-Cooley



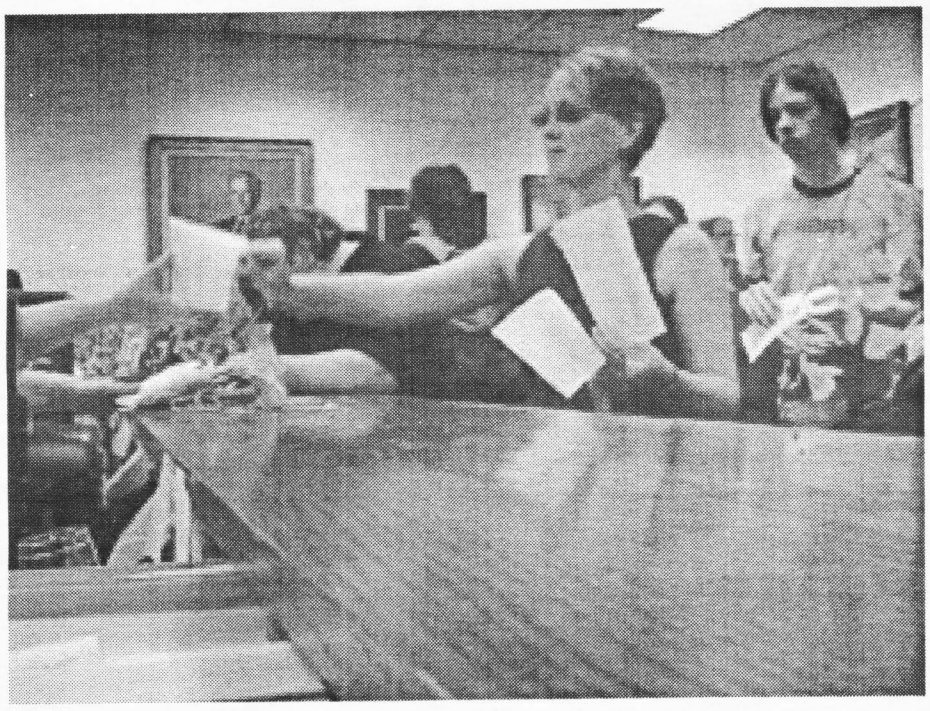
Money within the state budget is seeing another shift as the legislative session draws to a close. Although projections for the community are often vague, one change deemed necessary by the governing forces, is an alteration to the amount of aid set aside for the poor. In response to the steady increase of welfare cases, Gov. Locke anticipates making a 6% case reduction. To do so, a number of proposals have been outlined:

* Full family sanctions, which would entail the threat of abolishing aid for an entire family not just the individual parent or parents. This would also effectively negate any type of child safety net.

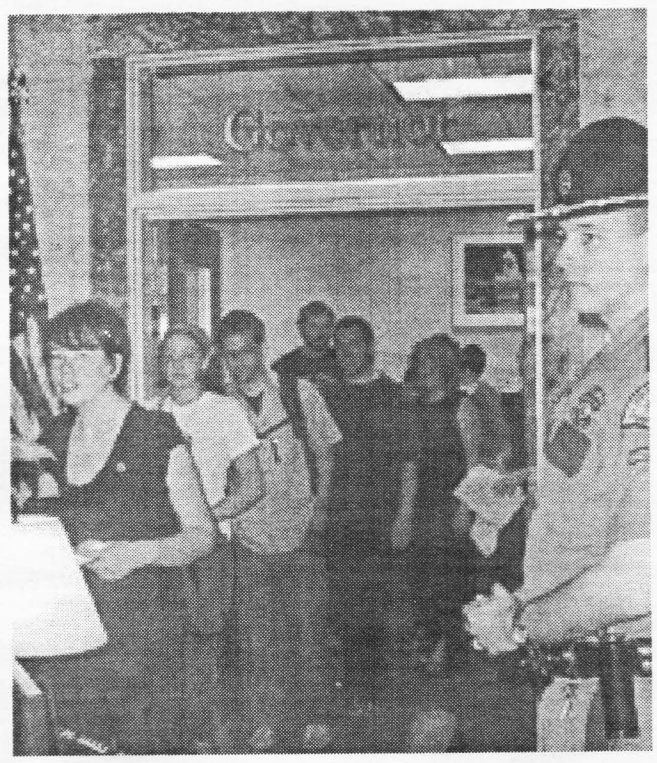
* Institute a thirty-day waiting period during which one would be required to perform Job Search, as well as check-in daily with Work Source before actually receiving ANY aid.

* NO exemptions to time limit. (For example, aid to families with differently abled children would still be cut in accordance to the five-year limit.

Responding to these proposals, on the 30th of May, approximately 40 people congregated in front of Governor Locke's office on Capitol campus to voice frustrations concerning the state's inability to recognize Washington's families. With the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (WROC) offering a little guidance, folks shared information as well as personal stories concerning interactions with the Department of Social and Health Service (DSHS) and the welfare system. The group then proceeded to walk into Locke's office. Each individual pulled off a number from around their neck which intended to represent that recipients of welfare are people and not simply numbers, offering said number as well as written comments to those working in Locke's office. Although he was sighted, a personal chat with Locke did not occur. It is the hope of WROC and its allies that the administration will recognize the consequences of not properly representing Washington's low-income families.



Open Letter to Governor Locke



May 30, 2003

Dear Governor:

We are here to meet with you today about your support of low-income families. We are members of WROC, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, and our allies. WROC is a grassroots, nonprofit organization whose mission is to affect social and economic justice by educating and empowering our members to effect positive change in their communities and in their lives.

We are concerned that you have told DSHS that they must reduce the welfare caseload by 6% by August. We understand that the increasing caseload is an economic concern, but it is not surprising in our current economic climate. We talk to families every day who have been looking for work for months, with no luck. They have no choice but to depend upon TANF, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

We understand that you are looking at three options; full family sanctions, a thirty-day wait period before receiving benefits, or time limits with no exemptions. All of these possibilities would be devastating. TANF recipients are already living at 40% of poverty level. These policies would take away what little they have and we would see an increase in homelessness and foster care.

Of immediate concern to us is how DSHS is going to achieve the 6% caseload reduction. What is going to happen to these families (60 in Thurston County) when they are forced off TANF? Is the pressure you are exerting on DSHS going to result in case workers increasingly ignoring legal safeguards and sanctioning and terminating welfare grants more indiscriminately? Are the individual needs of these parents and their children going to be ignored in the push to get them off assistance? Are benefits going to be harder to get, so that parents are left without a safety net? Are we going to see more homeless and hungry children as a result of your actions?

You can achieve the savings you need to meet the increasing caseload without hurting families. For example, TANF recipients must make 15 job contacts a week; people receiving unemployment insurance must make three. TANF recipients must go to the Work Source office every day to sign in on a computer, UI recipients can phone in, fill out a claim online, or mail their claim once a week. TANF recipients often have inadequate transportation, but even though this is a legal reason for noncompliance, they are told they will be sanctioned if they do not make it in every morning.

I have spoken with students whose children go to child care at their college, yet they are supposed to take them to child care, go back to the Work Source office, sign in (because they can't take their child in with them) and then go back to school. This can take three to four hours on the bus. I have also spoken with parents in rural areas who have to drive or catch rides for the 40 to 50 mile trip into town, to sign in. They are given gas vouchers which only provide enough gas to last half the week.

Job search for TANF recipients is incredibly inefficient and reportedly ineffective. I challenge you to ask TANF recipients if job search was useful. We have been asking that question for over a year and almost all recipients say, if they found a job, it was despite job search, not because of it. Could you make job search more efficient and increase its effectiveness by combining WIA, the Workforce Investment Act, and job search? Differences exist between the TANF populations and the UI populations. Millions of dollars could be saved, reducing inefficient and excessive programs like job search and WPLEX.

Look at options that do not harm low-income families. If they are expected to leave the TANF rolls, then provide them with the supports they need: education, child-care and other work supports. During a recession, it makes sense for TANF recipients to use their 60 months to increase their job skills, so they will be eligible for living wage jobs when the economy improves. People are not numbers!

Sincerely,
Members of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition

How An Earlier "Patriot Act" Law Brought Down A President

Thom Hartmann

Many Americans are suggesting that the Patriot Act (and its proposed "improvements" in Patriot II) is totally new in the experience of America and may spell the end of both democracy and the Bill of Rights. History, however, shows another view, which offers us both warnings and hope.

Although you won't learn much about it from reading the "Republican histories" of the Founders being published and promoted in the corporate media these days, the most notorious stain on the presidency of John Adams began in 1798 with the passage of a series of laws startlingly similar to the Patriot Act.

It started when Benjamin Franklin Bache, grandson of Benjamin Franklin and editor of the Philadelphia newspaper the Aurora , began to speak out against the policies of then-President John Adams . Bache supported Vice President Thomas Jefferson's Democratic-Republican Party (today called the Democratic Party) when John Adams led the conservative Federalists (who today would be philosophically identical to GOP Republicans). Bache attacked Adams in an op-ed piece by calling the president "old, querulous, Bald, blind, crippled, Toothless Adams."

To be sure, Bache wasn't the only one attacking Adams in 1798. His Aurora was one of about 20 independent newspapers aligned with Jefferson 's Democratic-Republicans, and many were openly questioning Adams ' policies and ridiculing Adams ' fondness for formality and grandeur.

On the Federalist side, conservative newspaper editors were equally outspoken. Noah Webster wrote that Jefferson 's Democratic-Republicans were "the refuse, the sweepings of the most depraved part of mankind from the most corrupt nations on earth." Another Federalist characterized the Democratic-Republicans as "democrats, momocrats and all other kinds of rats," while Federalist newspapers worked hard to turn the rumor of Jefferson 's relationship with his deceased wife's half-sister, slave Sally Hemmings, into a full-blown scandal.

But while Jefferson and his Democratic-Republicans had learned to develop a thick skin, University of Missouri-Rolla history professor Larry Gragg points out in an October 1998 article in American History magazine that Bache's writings sent Adams and his wife into a self-righteous frenzy. Abigail wrote to her husband and others that Benjamin Franklin Bache was expressing the "malice" of a man possessed by Satan. The Democratic-Republican newspaper editors were engaging, she said, in "abuse, deception, and falsehood," and Bache was a "lying wretch."

Abigail insisted that her husband and Congress must act to punish Bache for his "most insolent and abusive" words about her husband and his administration. His "wicked and base, violent and calumniating abuse" must be stopped, she demanded.

Abigail Adams followed the logic employed by modern-day "conservatives" who call the administration "the government" and say that those opposed to an administration's policies are "unpatriotic," by writing that Bache's "abuse" being "leveled against the Government" of the United States (her husband) could even plunge the nation into a "civil war."

Worked into a frenzy by Abigail Adams' and Federalist newspapers of the day, Federalist senators and congressmen - who controlled both legislative houses along with the presidency - came to the defense of John Adams by passing a series of four laws that came to be known together as the Alien and Sedition Acts.

The vote was so narrow - 44 to 41 in the House of Representatives - that in order to ensure passage the lawmakers wrote a sunset provision into its most odious parts: Those laws, unless renewed, would expire the last day of John Adams' first term of office, March 3, 1801 .

Empowered with this early version of the Patriot Act, President John Adams ordered his "unpatriotic" opponents arrested, and specified that only Federalist judges on the Supreme Court would be both judges and jurors.

Bache, often referred to as "Lightning Rod Junior" after his famous grandfather, was the first to be hauled into jail (before the laws even became effective!), followed by New York Time Piece editor John Daly Burk, which put his paper out of business. Bache died of yellow fever while awaiting trial, and Burk accepted deportation to avoid imprisonment and then fled.

Others didn't avoid prison so easily. Editors of seventeen of the twenty or so Democratic-Republican-affiliated newspapers were arrested, and ten were convicted and imprisoned; many of their newspapers went out of business.

Bache's successor, William Duane (who both took over the newspaper and married Bache's widow), continued the attacks on Adams, publishing in the June 24, 1799 issue of the Aurora a private letter John Adams had written to Tench Coxe in which then-Vice President Adams admitted that there were still men influenced by Great Britain in the U.S. government. The letter cast Adams in an embarrassing light, as it implied that Adams himself may still have British loyalties (something suspected by many, ever since his pre-revolutionary defense of British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre), and made the quick-tempered Adams furious.

Imprisoning his opponents in the press was only the beginning for Adams , though. Knowing Jefferson would mount a challenge to his presidency in 1800, he and the Federalists hatched a plot to pass secret legislation that would have disputed presidential elections decided "in secret" and "behind closed doors."

Duane got evidence of the plot, and published it just after having published the letter that so infuriated Adams . It was altogether too much for the president who didn't want to let go of his power: Adams had Duane arrested and hauled before Congress on Sedition Act charges. Duane would have stayed in jail had not Thomas Jefferson intervened, letting Duane leave to "consult his attorney." Duane went into hiding until the end of the Adams ' presidency.

Emboldened, the Federalists reached out beyond just newspaper editors.

When Congress let out in July of 1798, John and Abigail Adams made the trip home to Braintree ,Massachusetts in their customary fashion - in fancy carriages as part of a parade, with each city they passed through firing cannons and ringing church bells. (The Federalists were, after all, as Jefferson said, the party of "the rich and the well born." Although Adams wasn't one of the super-rich, he basked in their approval and adopted royal-like trappings, later discarded by Jefferson .)

As the Adams family entourage, full of pomp and ceremony, passed through Newark, New Jersey, a man named Luther Baldwin was sitting in a tavern and probably quite unaware that he was about to make a fateful comment that would help change history.

As Adams rode by, soldiers manning the Newark cannons loudly shouted the Adams-mandated chant, "Behold the chief who now commands!" and fired their salutes. Hearing the cannon fire as Adams drove by outside the bar, in a moment of drunken candor Luther Baldwin said, "There goes the President and they are firing at his arse." Baldwin further compounded his sin by adding that, "I do not care if they fire thro' his arse!"

The tavern's owner, a Federalist named John Burnet, overheard the remark and turned Baldwin in to Adams ' thought police: The hapless drunk was arrested, convicted, and imprisoned for uttering "seditious words tending to defame the President and Government of the United States ."

The Alien and Sedition Acts reflected the new attitude Adams and his wife had brought to Washington D.C. in 1796, a take-no-prisoners type of politics in which no opposition was tolerated.

For example, on January 30, 1798 ,Vermont 's Congressman Matthew Lyon spoke out on the floor of the House against "the malign influence of Connecticut politicians." Charging that Adams' and the Federalists only served the interests of the rich and had "acted in opposition to the interests and opinions of nine-tenths of their constituents," Lyon infuriated the Federalists.

The situation simmered for two weeks, and on the morning of February 15, 1798 , Federalist anger reached a boiling point when conservative Connecticut Congressman Roger Griswold attacked Lyon on the House floor with a hickory cane. As Congressman George Thatcher wrote in a letter now held at the Massachusetts Historical Society, "Mr. Griswald [sic] [was] laying on blows with all his might upon Mr. Lyon.. Griswald.continued his blows on the head, shoulder, & arms of Lyon, [who was] protecting his head & face as well as he could. Griswald tripped Lyon & threw him on the floor & gave him one or two [more] blows in the face."

In sharp contrast to his predecessor George Washington, America's second president had succeeded in creating an

(continued page 14)

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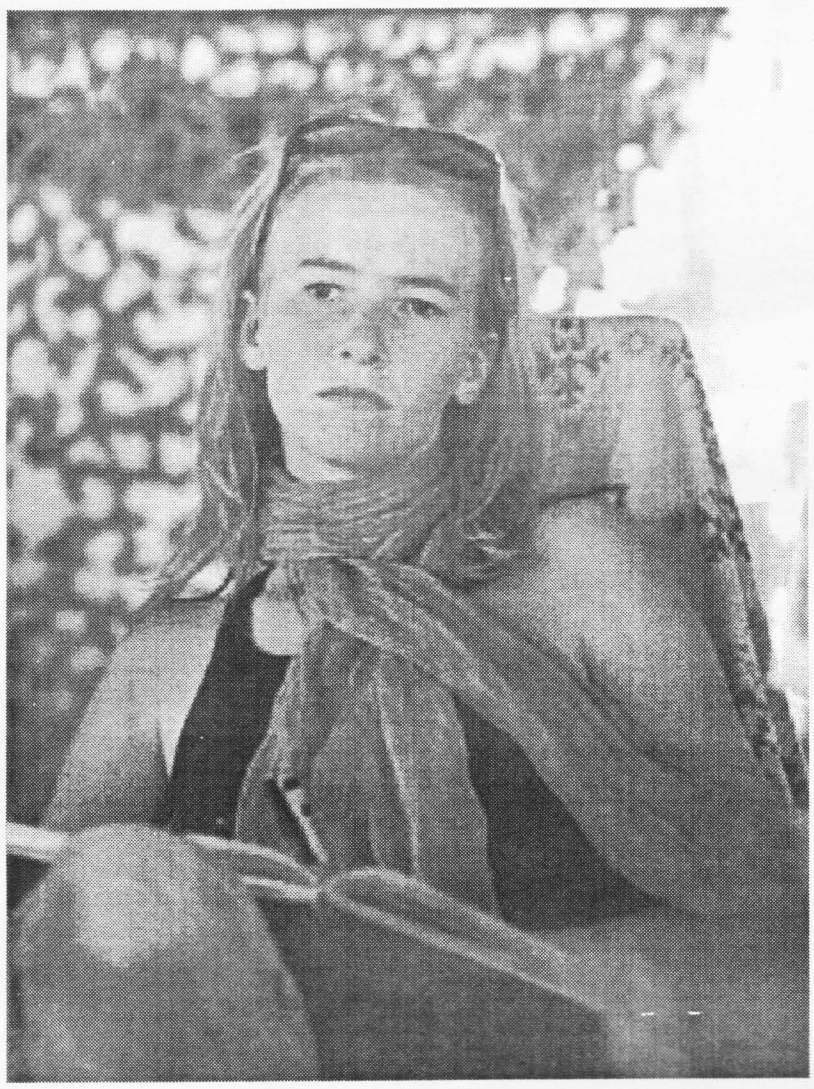
TESC Graduation 2003: Rachel, Palestine, Israel and Us

Education [is] . . . the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world. Paulo Freire



Craig and Cindy Corrie accept their daughter's diploma
(Photo by Martin Kane, ©2003 TESC)

On May 17, 2003, the Muslim Public Affairs Council presented Craig and Cindy Corrie the Courage Award in memory of their daughter Rachel.

If the Israeli military should break with their racist tendency not to injure white people, please pin the reason squarely on the fact that I am in the midst of a genocide which I am also indirectly supporting, and for which my government is largely responsible.

This has to stop. I think it is a good idea for us all to drop everything and devote our lives to making this stop. I don't think it's an extremist thing to do anymore. I still really want to dance around to Pat Benatar and have boyfriends and make comics for my coworkers. But I also want this to stop.

Rachel Corrie

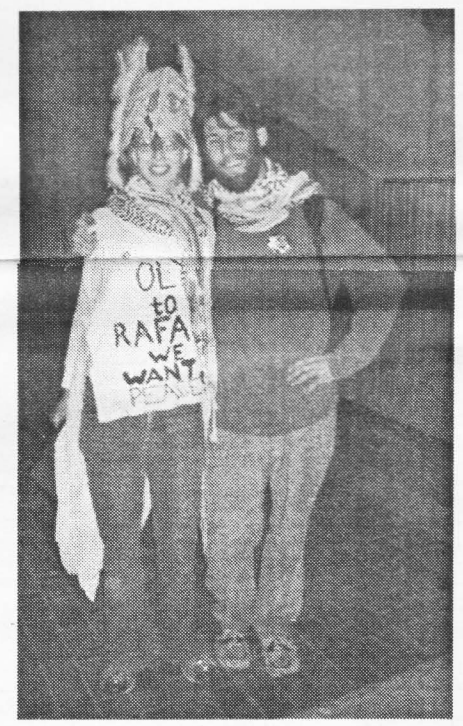
On anti-semitism

Community members participating in commencement solidarity activities reject all forms of racism, including racism against both Arabs and Jews. Racism against Arabs is virulent and alive in society, but racism against Jews also still exists and requires our diligent attention. Careless or deliberate employment of anti-Jewish statements compounds the historical injustice against Jews, wrongly implicates an entire ethnic group in the crimes against the Palestinians, and discredits the struggle for justice in the Middle East.

Criticism of the state of Israel, its policies, or the idea of a Jewish state does not by itself constitute anti-semitism.

Dismissing critics of Israel or of Zionism as "anti-semitic" is a means of stifling debate and masking the impact of occupation.

Krissy Johnson, 2003 graduate, friend of Rachel Corrie and activist in solidarity with Palestinians, wears a kaffiyeh as she speaks with Cindy Corrie at the Rachel Corrie Memorial in the Library Building following commencement.
(photo by sandy mayes)



A joyful moment as Siouxzie Morrison, 2003 graduate, friend of Rachel and Rafah Sister City organizer, wears a kaffiyeh and her Procession dove costume as she stands with her longtime partner, Trent Lutzke after receiving her diploma.
(photo by sandy mayes)

Why Kaffiyehs?

Kaffiyehs are a symbol of Palestinian national identity. Members of the Evergreen community wear kaffiyehs to express opposition to the 36-year Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, in memory of Rachel Corrie and in solidarity with Palestinians, Jews and internationals working for a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel.

At last year's graduation, Evergreen graduates wore kaffiyehs to protest Israel's violent reoccupation of Palestinian cities and towns and obstruction of access to schools and universities. To this day, Israeli forces continue their policies of human rights violations, including the destruction of homes, agricultural land, and water wells; devastating curfews and restrictions on travel that prevent people from going to work or obtaining medical care; settlement expansion; and shootings and bombings that have resulted in the deaths and injury of thousands of civilians, including many children. All this is done with the economic, diplomatic, and military support of the US.

[WIP consulted TESC faculty member Therese Saliba on the question of cultural appropriation when westerners wear kaffiyehs. She told us that the student who initiated the campaign to wear kaffiyehs at last year's graduation asked a Palestinian who was visiting Olympia (one of the founders of the ISM—George Rishmawi) for his input. "When Gabe asked, 'What would you think about Evergreen students wearing kaffiyehs at graduation?' George gave a huge smile and said, 'That would be wonderful!' Also, my Arab friends in Seattle thought it was such a wonderful idea, they wanted to come down to take photos of it. Believe me, Palestinians, and Arabs more generally, greatly appreciate the show of solidarity. That is why they cherish Rachel Corrie so much."]

Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral.

Paulo Freire

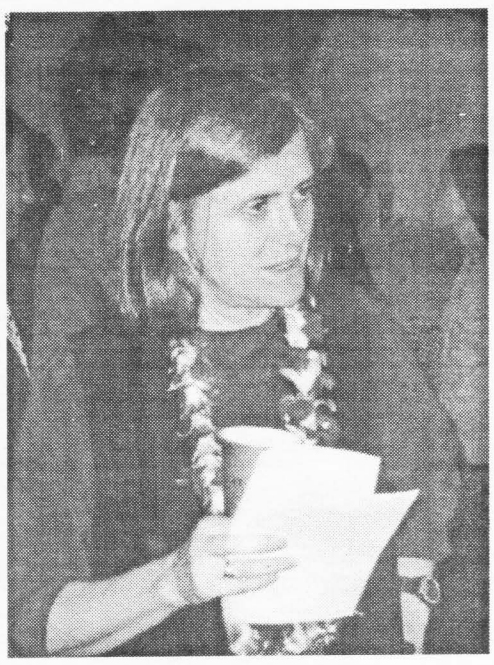
Women In Black hold vigil at graduation (photo by sandy mayes)

Women in Black

Women in Black is an international women's peace movement that began in Israel in 1988 when Jewish and Palestinian Israeli women gathered in Israel to protest the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and to call for an end to violent conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Today Women in Black vigils continue in Israel as well as around the world in such countries as the U.S., England, India, Italy, Spain, Australia, Azerbaijan and Serbia.

The Women in Black vigil at this year's ceremony was initiated by a graduating student and coordinated with Women in Black activists from around Washington State. They held a silent vigil mourning Rachel Corrie and calling for a US investigation into her killing.

Local radio programmer, Austin Kelley, who has been instrumental in keeping *Democracy Now!* widely available in Olympia, talks shop with Amy Goodman who is the host of the internationally renowned radio and TV public affairs program. (photo by sandy mayes)



As the granddaughter of an Orthodox rabbi and the great granddaughter of an Hassidic rabbi, keynote speaker Amy Goodman cited her Jewish ancestry as she commended the courage of Rachel Corrie and others who stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

[*In preparation for commencement, an ad hoc coalition collaborated in producing an Alternative Program Guide, from which the text for this photo essay is adapted.*]

(Remarks, continued)

servist in the Israeli military, a father of two teenage sons, who taught her Hebrew phrases to shout through her megaphone when she encountered bulldozer and tank operators. Rachel died on March 16, 2003, held and comforted by her ISM friends. One was Alice who is Jewish and has cousins in Israel whom she fears for whenever she hears of a suicide bombing.

After Rachel was killed, our earliest e-mails included ads from the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz—ads placed by Israeli Jews who understood why Rachel had come to Gaza, who understood why she stood up to the bulldozer that day, who understood that in her compassionate heart there was love for all humanity. E-mail came from the Occupied Territories, too, from Palestinians who told us that because of Rachel they were making a commitment to work nonviolently for justice.

Though there is no balance of power between the Israeli and Palestinian people, there is immense fear on both sides. We have spoken with an Israeli mother, who tells us that at times she has been paralyzed by fear when her two boys leave their Israeli home. Nevertheless, this woman opposes the occupation and works with others in the Israeli peace movement to harvest the olives from Palestinian orchards because Palestinian farmers will be fired upon if they do the picking. We have talked with a young Palestinian woman whose entire family was killed in 1982 in the Sabra and Shatila massacre while she, a four-year-old child, hid beneath a bed. We have personally heard the fear and anguish on both sides.

We in America see the horror of the suicide bombings. But most of us see much less the ongoing violence against the Palestinian people. Our blindness is an enormous contributing factor to this problem. Parents can be awakened by their children. Rachel helped to awaken our family to the cruelty of the thirty-six year occupation. We must all remember that as we have watched the deaths of some of the hundreds of Israelis who have died since September 2000, that there have also been well over two thousand Palestinian deaths, as well as daily assaults on the ability of people there to live—to have homes, gardens, education, jobs, and self-respect.

On January 19, Rachel wrote to me, "The scariest thing for non-Jewish Americans in talking about Palestinian self-determination is the fear of being or sounding anti-semitic. Reading Chomsky's book and talking to my non-zionist Jewish friends has helped me think about this. I just think we all have the right to be critical of government policies...any government policies...particularly government policies which we are funding."

How many Americans have walked in Gaza? How many of our elected officials who vote year after year to spend billions of our tax dollars to provide the apache helicopters, the tanks, the F-16s and, yes, the D-9 armored bulldozers that are used to terrorize and kill the Palestinian people—how many of them have walked in Gaza? I have reached inside Rachel's shoes, and I have run my fingers through the sand of Gaza that still remains in them. I know that this is a painful issue for many people. I think that what Rachel would hope is that we listen to what she had to report firsthand and that we think critically about this issue. She wrote, "I do believe pretty much above all else in the importance of independent critical thinking."

Rachel believed without a doubt that by joining the Palestinians in nonviolent resistance to the occupation that she was in fact working to make both Palestinians and Israelis safer. She dreamed of a day when all Palestinians and Israelis could live in freedom with security and dignity. I think that Rachel would hope that we could all agree not to behave in ways that prolong the violence but, instead, that we all engage in finding a just solution.

As all of you graduates move on from here today and choose your own battles with which to make the world whole, and as you struggle (as you will) it may help to recall that Rachel struggled, too. She said, "I really can't believe that something like this can happen in the world without a bigger outcry about it. It really hurts me, again, like it has hurt me in the past, to witness how awful we can allow the world to be."

But when things are difficult, remember, too, that Rachel also found hope. In her words, "I felt much better after this morning. I spent a lot of time writing about the disappointment of discovering, somewhat first-hand the degree of evil of which we are still capable. I should at least mention that I am also discovering a degree of strength and of basic ability for humans to remain human in the direst of circumstances.... I think the word is dignity."

In a paper for Local Knowledge, Rachel wrote, "I came from Perry creek and I would have liked to stay forever in the rushes but I couldn't. I look at this place now and I just want to do right by it. The salmon beneath downtown and the people who came to drop-ins group and the creeks and the inlets and the people who were here first and my elementary school teachers and my mom." I know that you will all draw your own meaning from Rachel's life and death. But wherever your journeys lead you, whatever your task or passion may become, I know Rachel would be honored and humbled if in remembering her, you remember, too, your roots—your community, your family, and Evergreen and that you decide to "just do right by them."

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rachelsmessage@the-corries.com

Brewery Closing Sparks Community Action

Meghan McDonough

Tumwater, WA

What do you do when the largest union wage employer decides to leave town, placing your community's water supply and your local economy at risk? Labor and Environmentalists agree: You get the community talking.

After 107 years of operation, the current owners of the Tumwater Brewery, South African Breweries/Miller announced they would close the plant on January 9, 2003. In following months, local Labor and environmental leaders and community members convened the Thurston Blue-Green Working Group to discuss what could be done to replace good jobs lost, ensure clean water, and promote socially and ecologically responsible development at the site.

With a resounding slogan "Its *Our* Water", the Blue-Green Group invited a broad cross-section of the local community to attend a Community Forum on June 25th, 2003 at the Friends Meeting Hall in Tumwater. Culminating several months of research and outreach, the forum was attended by 65 people, including Union members, environmentalists, business owners, concerned citizens and elected officials.

The City's Mayor Ralph Osgood, and members of the Blue-Green Group shared information on the site layout, water rights, job-creation potential, and on strategies and examples of community-based redevelopment. An engaging strategy session followed, generating a range of ideas on possible uses for the site, and next steps.

Bob Guenther, President of the Thurston-Lewis County Labor Council, emphasized that Thurston County needs Union jobs. Quality of life means good jobs with decent benefits, and a voice at work. "When workers can't meet their most basic needs, they don't have time to worry about the environment or get involved in community life. When workers suffer, the entire community suffers," Guenther explained.

Mayor Osgood, who opened the event, called the closure an opportunity to get parts of the property back into public ownership, including the historic Brewhouse and access to both sides of the Deschutes River. He sees trails and parks lining its banks, suggesting the idea of a green belt.

Jerry Murphy, a business owner and Tumwater Chamber of Commerce board member said new development should be "worthy of the River" suggesting future uses be environmentally sensitive, and keep the area "up-scale". Murphy was appointed to the Tumwater Council recently.

Paul Picket, an Ecology employee, PUD Commissioner, and activist with WFSE Local #443, gave a basic primer to water issues including both rights to the water coming in, and wastewater going out. The Brewery's nutrient-rich waste could be recycled to feed crops, instead of being released to the River, where it poses a threat to the salmon and drinking water.

Osgood said the 3 Cities are interested in the sites water rights but that Miller won't sell the rights seperately.

Don Trosper from the Tumwater Historical Society summed up the community's sentiment, saying he hopes the new owners have the heart and community spirit demonstrated by the Schmidt family.

Chris van Daalen, an Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment organizer, explained the first step in the process of community-driven redevelopment is getting people together to create a vision of development that will benefit the community's interests.

John Means, a former Union Carpenter and student of sustainable design, presented case studies of other communities that redeveloped old industrial sites into thriving economic assets, inspiring new community pride, including Lewiston, ME and Cape Charles, VA. Sustainable development, he said, values the community's needs while creating viable development. "It's development with our children in mind."

The brainstorming sessions in small groups engaged participants in creative thinking on ways to create good jobs, preserve water quality, save money with "green" building practices that take full advantage of existing resources, and bring the community's values to the table in all decisions made.

Ideas for site redevelopment included a mixed-use facility with a local focus, which the plant is already zoned for, such as arts spaces, cafes, featured local businesses and products, a conference center space, low-income housing. Parks and open spaces, and generating living-wage jobs were two strong themes. Shared use of the space by a number of local producers could be both cost-effective and mutually beneficial. In line with sustainable development principles, the group asked what products does the community use that could be produced locally. One is the alternative fuel Biodiesel, used in large quantity by Intercity Transit.

Participants said they want to push forward with their ideas. Strategies discussed included expanding the conversation to more community members, engaging local government, consulting with other communities who have recently undertaken these processes with their older industrial sites, forming a local non-profit coalition or development group, and pursuing a feasibility study.

With good turnout and participation, organizers deemed the Forum was a solid success. Now the work has to carried forward to keep the community process going. However, the group needs financial support to move plans forward and welcomes donations. With the backing of many community, Labor, environmental, local business, and elected leaders, there is hope the community will have a say in the future of the Tumwater Brewery.

If readers want to get involved, get more information, give a donation or receive a copy of the Forum report, please email ThurstonBlueGreen@hotmail.com or call 360.754.7287.

Staying Inactive Is Downright Foolish:

Reaction to Proposed Conference Center

Stanley Stahl

Friends:

If y'all know that the $10 million of Olympia PFD money combined with $5 million of Olympia funds earmarked for building a Conference Center could be spent on a swimming pool, a library, or West Bay land acquisition for Parks, then staying inactive about getting this on the ballot is apathetic, ignorant and downright foolish.

In 2003, many tourist-attracting events that depend on Lodging Tax grants went unpaid for. If y'all know that the $8K cut from the Procession of the Species; and the $8K cut from the Bigelow House budget; and the $5K denied the Greater Olympia Dixieland Jazz Society; and the $2.6K denied the Olympia Symphony Orchestra; and the $5K denied the Olympia Farmer's Market for the Bluegrass Fest are only the beginning of the end of funding for those worthy enterprises that bring thousands of tourist dollars to our City, then staying inactive is downright foolish.

If y'all know that $67K from that same fund went to the Visitor Commerce Bureau (VCB), which has been negligent in distributing VCB brochures along the I-5 corridor and the airport, then staying inactive is downright foolish.

If y'all know that $60K of the Lodging Tax grant fund was squirreled away for use in future marketing for the Conference Center, which may or may not be feasible, and excludes the abovementioned worthy enterprises that bring many tourists into Olympia but need some small subsidy to exist, then staying inactive is downright foolish.

If y'all know that City Manager Dick Cushing presented a Pro Forma O&M 2008 sheet to the City Council on June 3, 2003 showing that every single dollar projected to be collected by the City in Lodging Tax revenues is intended to offset the $605K negative bottom-line of Conference Center operations (unless part of that money goes to the Washington Center) by the year 2008, then staying inactive is downright foolish.

If y'all know that the Phoenix Inn will be picking up 50% of every tourist dollar that is spent by out-of-town attendees coming to trade shows, banquets and conventions (and will spend some of it on 7-8 maids and 2 maintenance jobs at about $7-$8 per hour, before the rest of it goes to Oregon headquarters to fund higher-paid administrators, executives and stockholders), then staying inactive is downright foolish.

If y'all know that road rage will be the outcome of having inadequate on-site and off-site parking for this huge amount of new traffic that will surely spill into our few existing parking spaces, then staying inactive is downright foolish.

Since my conclusion is that this proposed Conference Center will deplete, and not enrich, our environmentally-conscious community, then I have to conclude that staying inactive is downright foolish.

The following letter could be networked to your friends and acquaintances if you are not satisfied with the idea that staying inactive is your best possible reaction to the above facts about the latest absurd boondoggle that is about to be hatched by the city of Olympia:

Friends, As you may have heard, 200 people turned out for the June 10 public hearing on the conference/arts/retail center. The majority were in favor of voting on the issue and implored the City Council to put it on the fall (September primary) ballot.

But the majority of the Council (5 of 7) seem determined NOT to allow this since they sense they might lose. (Our signature gathering in council members' neighborhoods showed that around 79% of the public want to vote on it.)

We have around 3600 signatures to date and need 4200 by July 1 to qualify for a ballot initiative.

PLEASE, if you have any time this week, copy 2 or more petitions (download from our website www.nwn.com and take them around with you wherever you go and get some signatures.

Also, if everyone could contact the people in his/her email address book, we could branch out via a network web, sending this same message and petition electronically. We could get a lot done with much less effort this way. It's easy to forward this on; you only need the following:

- The addresses posted from your address book,
- Your signature at the bottom of the introductory messages (above and below) Please deliver all filled petitions to (Anne) Buck's Fifth Avenue, 209 5th Ave SE downtown by Monday, June 30. You may also send into the address on the petition.

For an overview of the central issues go to http://www.nwn.net

All our efforts depend on getting enough signatures since the matter is likely to go to court once the Council makes its expected decision.

Thank you.

SEPA Violations in Conference Center Planning

Jeffrey Denison

I presented the following information to the Olympia City Council on June 12. It was written in response to a telephone communication from Conference Center project manager and City of Olympia Senior Planner Steve Friddle who stated, "An EIS has not been done for the Conference Center," and that all pertinent information was on the project's website. On the website at this writing there is no reference to any environmental review for this project.

Arts & Conference Center Project website:
http://www.ci.olympia.wa.us/generalgov/accenter

The Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires an environmental review to be conducted and full disclosure of all potential impacts of a given project before the commitment of public funds or resources. In the absence of an environmental review including an Environmental Checklist and Environmental Determination, and subsequent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS), the City of Olympia cannot proceed with this project.

SEPA requires environmental review process to be *"integrated with agency activities at the earliest possible time to ensure that planning and decisions reflect environmental valuesÉ"* SEPA requires, *"The lead agency shall prepare its threshold determination and environmental impact statement (EIS), if required, at the earliest possible point in the planning and decision-making process, when the principal features of a proposal and its environmental impacts can be reasonably identified."*

Further, full public disclosure of environmental review information is required under SEPA.

"To meet the requirement to insure that environmental values and amenities are given appropriate consideration along with economic and technical considerations, environmental documents and analyses shall be circulated and reviewed with other planning documents to the fullest extent possible."

However, the online announcement for the June 10 Public Hearing indicated the hearing would take place for public input limited to three elements of the Convention Center planning process, "capital financing, operating and maintenance costs, and facility design," not the project total project. Information about environmental considerations was excluded and the public was asked to provide comment in the exclusion of this critical information..

During the City Council meeting June17 in response to my statement and a request by Council member Matthew Green for information on SEPA requirements, the City Attorney stated [in contrast to the prior public notifications] that this decision is only a property acquisition for which the previously conducted Nonproject Review was sufficient. SEPA defines two categories of actions for which environmental reviews are necessary: Project actions and Nonproject actions. Project actions involve a decision on a specific project, e.g., a specific construction project. Nonproject actions involve decisions on policies, plans or programs, e.g., comprehensive land use or zoning.

The City Attorney stated that once plans are finalized they would do a SEPA Project Review in order to obtain building permits. This is inconsistent with SEPA requirements. Purchase of land for a specific project, namely the Conference Center, constitutes a Project action. SEPA is required during the initial stages of any project, *"at the earliest point."* SEPA states, "*agencies should adopt procedures for environmental review and for preparation of EIS on private proposals at the conceptual stage rather than the final detailed design stage.*" SEPA regulations must be adhered to before "irretrievable and irrevocable" commitment of public funds or resources to a project, or any commitment to a project whatsoever.

Apparent Public Announcement of Prior Project Approval

I included in my letter to City Council on June 12 my observation concerning the Arts and Conference Center Review Schedule, dated April 21, which was at that time linked to the Conference Center web page at http://www.ci.olympia.wa.us/generalgov/accenter/pdf/Schedule5-1.pdf This Review Schedule indicates "Approval" for MOU on May 6 and "Approval" for all remaining elements of the Conference Center on June 24.

It appears that the City Council has via the online posted calendar, notified the public that the project was approved before the calendar was posted on 21 April 2003, prior to any environmental review, the collection and presentation to the public of all relevant information, or a public hearing.

For the City Council to make a formal decision approving this project, after public notification of the City's prior "approval" of this project, appears to be an unlawful and unconstitutional *ex post facto* justification for prior agency action. Hence, it appears that a formal Council vote on this matter would be in violation of Washington State and Federal Law, specifically: The United States Constitution: "No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed." [Article I, Section 9, Clause 3] and the Washington State Constitution: "The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land." [Article I, Section 2] "No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligations of contracts shall ever be passed." [Article I, Section 23].

I downloaded the review schedule cited above through the link on the Conference Center website at 3:25pm June 11. On June 12, at 5pm I submitted a letter to City Council containing the above information. At 8:30pm that evening, I noticed the link had been removed, the review schedule was no longer available to the public through the project's website. The above link, however, remains active.

ART & CONFERENCE CENTER
CITY COUNCIL REVIEW SCHEDULE

EVENT	APRIL	MAY					JUNE				
	29	5	6	13	20	27	3	10	12	17	24
MOU	Exec. Session		Approval								
Design (Schematic) • Feedback • Final & Cost		Public Open House	Study Session				Study Session				Approval
Project Budget • Capital • O & M	MOU		MOU			Study Session	Study Session	Public Input	Study Session		Approval
Agreement with VIP'S						Exec. Session	Study Session	Public Input	Study Session		Approval
Operating Approach • Marketing Plan • Booking • Management					Study Session	Study Session		Public Input			Approval

United For Peace and Justice Conference

Alice Zillah

The United for Peace and Justice first-ever national conference was held June 6-8 in Chicago, and I went as a delegate of United for Peace Thurston County. UFPJ formed during the fall as one of several national coalition groups seeking to articulate a broad voice of resistance to the Bush agenda of war at any cost. Hundreds of organizations across the country voted to become affiliate groups under the umbrella of UFPJ. In Thurston County, over thirty different groups - including the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Green Party, Stonewall Youth, and the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace - came together to form the United for Peace Thurston County coalition to organize, strategize, and get out in the streets against the immoral and illegal Iraq war.

Over 500 people attended the conference, representing about 325 different organizations and encompassing an amazing amount of diversity. The diversity extended not just racially, but also in terms of ages, backgrounds, geographic regions represented, and tactics espoused. It was not unusual to look around the table at lunch and see an urban queer radical talking to an anti-nuclear activist from Nebraska, and a gray-haired former Black Panther discussing strategy with a labor activist from South Carolina. There was a widely-felt focus on our commonalties rather than our differences, leading to genuine friendliness and mutual support among the attendees.

The main purpose of the conference was to democratize UFPJ and in doing so to make it a stronger and more effective organization. To this end we voted on a unity statement, a strategic framework, and action proposals. We also elected a Steering Committee that will be the central organizing body of the group.

The unity and framework statements, as well as the action proposals and the list of Steering Committee members, can all be found at www.unitedforpeace.org.

Affirmative Action in Action

The principals of affirmative action were incorporated into the conference from the start. The UFPJ organizers encouraged groups across the country to send women and people of color to the conference, and the conference delegates appeared to be about half women and one-third people of color. Most of the plenary panels and workshops were led by women and people of color. And the strategic framework statement that we voted on specified that the elected, thirty-five member Steering Committee should be (at a minimum) half women, half people of color, twenty percent youth, and fifteen percent lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered. (In addition, the Steering Committee members would represent both national and local/regional groups more or less equally.)

These requirements sounded good to everybody exceptÉ a handful of vocal attendees (who happened to be white and male). They suggested several "unfriendly" amendments, resulting in an additional hour of debate and process before the amendments were resoundingly voted down. The most problematic of these proposed amendments would have limited the numbers of women and people of color to their actual percentages in the US population - but no more than that. The proposal would have mandated a majority-white Steering Committee. This is precisely why affirmative action is needed, and needs to be consciously employed by the peace movement. We need to move beyond a white-majority movement if we are to remain vital and relevant.

The lesson learned for me is that it's time for the peace movement to merge with the anti-racist movement. In fact, let's not just merge - let's become synonymous with the anti-racist struggle. It's not enough to say we oppose racism and discrimination. Affirmative action, aggressively employed, is necessary every step of the way to insure that under-represented populations are fully involved in the planning, strategizing, and leadership roles within peace and justice groups.

The September 27 Question

Some European pro-Palestinian groups have issued a call for a global day of protest on September 27, to end the Israeli occupation. September 27 was chosen because it will be the anniversary of the beginning of the second intifada in the Occupied Territories. ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) has enthusiastically taken up the call for a day of protest on September 27, so there will certainly be a large demonstration on the East Coast and perhaps in cities nationwide. The question raised at the conference was whether UFPJ would endorse the global day of protest and lend its weight to publicizing, funding, and supporting demonstrations on that day.

September 27 is Rosh Hashanah, one of the most sacred holidays on the Jewish calendar. (Rosh Hashanah falls on a different date each year.) Having a major protest about the Israeli occupation on a Jewish holiday is a sure way to alienate many Jewish allies and lose their participation. An equivalent situation would be if OMJP were to organize a demonstration against China's occupation of Tibet, and schedule it on Chinese New Year. Such a move would be seen as insensitive and needlessly divisive, because certainly many Chinese oppose the occupation of Tibet, and in fact Chinese comprise some of the leadership in the campaign to free Tibet (just as many Jews make up the leadership within the anti-occupation struggle).

In addition to losing the participation of some Jews who would not join in a demonstration on September 27, the peace and justice movement would also make itself more vulnerable to allegations of anti-Semitism if we were to endorse this date. Already these criticisms, and counter-criticisms, are a painful wedge within our movement, and we can't afford to lend the appearance of validity to the claims.

Instead, the conference delegates voted to endorse a different day of action and protest against the occupation in the fall. September 13 is the top contender, because other international groups have already called for protests on this day. More information about which day is chosen will be forthcoming on the UFPJ web site.

Honoring Rachel

During the conference I got into conversations with dozens of people about Rachel Corrie. It was heartening to realize that, based on my conversations, virtually every person there was aware of who Rachel was and why she was in Gaza. I also frequently heard people comment that they had heard Cindy and Craig Corrie speak on the radio or at a demonstration, and how moved they were by the Corries' strength, dignity, and commitment to carrying on Rachel's legacy.

On the second day I went to a "mini-plenary" in which we debated the merits of about a dozen action proposals related to Palestinian justice issues. Simona Sharoni and Starhawk had collaborated on one such action proposal, which was the only one to both call for UFJP to encourage Congress to pass Resolution 111 (the Resolution which calls for a governmental investigation into Rachel's murder), and to support the work of the ISM.

These two directives were dropped from the synthesis proposal on Palestinian justice, to my disappointment. The reason was that the proposals were focused on actions which would involve new activity from the coalition. Since there are already national campaigns to get Congress to pass Resolution 111 (Jews Against the Occupation and Veterans for Peace are two national groups that have initiated campaigns), it was decided that UFPJ could endorse this campaign without taking the lead. Similarly, UFPJ can endorse the work of the ISM, but initiate other types of actions here in the US to compliment their work.

Nevertheless, one shortcoming of the conference (due to time limitations) was that we did not have the opportunity to formalize and vote on which endorsements we wanted to make. The "Justice for Palestine" action proposal states that a working committee will be convened to develop the message of the campaign and make decisions about endorsements.

Overall Impressions

I left Chicago feeling inspired and invigorated. Our allies in the US peace and justice movement are everywhere - in every town and city, in rural areas and the inner city. We have amazing resources in our grasp - the talents, skills and passion of millions of people. And collectively we can and we will change this country for the better.

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AN INJURY TO ONE: On Wal-Mart and the UFCW

R Jay Hershey

Once upon a time in Washington State, an injury to one union injured all union members. In downtown Olympia the Crane Cafe, The Spar, Ben Moore's, the China Clipper, the Olympia Oyster House, the Olympia Hotel, the Governor House, and dozens of other taverns and restaurants proudly displayed the little sign with the antique lettering which swept up from the left, "This is a Union House!" As a boy, I remember when a fry-cook from the Crane Cafe bought a lot out here on the South Bay Road and built a house. I went to South Bay Grade School with his son, Stan. A fry-cook can't do that today because now all of the restaurants pay scab wages. In those days, if a scab restaurant had opened and thrived, that cook might have had to have taken a pay cut. He might not have built his house. Stan and I might never have played ball together.

Union members stuck together back then. The times of mobs storming and sacking union halls, egged on by the business community and backed by lumber barons, still had a galvanizing effect on the rank-and-file. They remembered the pick handles upside their heads, the tarrings and featherings, the lynchings. So loggers, millwrights, carpenters, brewers, bricklayers, plumbers, electricians, phone company employees, longshoremen, and other union members would have stayed away from a non-union joint until such time as it would have gone union. An injury to one injured all.

So Stan and I got to play catch. Herbert Hoover once told a visiting delegate, "We have forty-seven states and The People's Republic of Washington." By that bit of sarcasm, he meant that our state had unionized almost completely - a proposition he did not like. Growing up here, I remember that J.C. Penney's, Miller's (a department store across from Penney's on Capitol Way), Sears and Roebucks, Mottman's (another department store on Capitol Way) and Montgomery Ward's all ran union shops. If they hadn't, my dad, a union carpenter, would never have darkened their doorways.

About the time I had turned six, Safeway opened a unionized store downtown, and soon after, Ralph Storman built his first Thriftway on a cow pasture between Fourt and State streets on the East side. It, too, went union. Now the supermarkets in our area represent the last bastion against slave wages in the over-the-counter sales business in our area. Sears, Penney's, Ross, and the rest lie busted.

Forty years ago, union membership guaranteed a hundred percent medical coverage for most workers. I remember paying for a prescription with a dollar and my union card. We achieved that by sticking together. We even made one of our business agents trade in his brand-new Volkswagen on a new Chevy. Yes, Volkswagen had organized, but their union workers didn't live in America; an injury to one - even to the United Auto Workers clear over in Detroit, three time zones distant - injured us all.

You could call me a throwback to those times. I still believe that true patriotism starts in my wallet and not neccessarily with a flag waving from the aerial of a Toyota pickup. Some people complain about unions. They say unions drive up prices through higher wages and benefits. Mostly, these same people complain about welfare, too. They decry welfare recipients as those who do nothing but raise taxes. But we common mortals find it impossible to live up to their Horatio Alger idea. When receiving the low pay and no benefits a company like Wal-Mart smidgens, it forces us to seek help from the public dole. We may not want to; we have no choice. You either gain assistance from the government, or you live in your car (should you have one). Don't even THINK about trying to raise a couple of children without buoyance.

On Wednesday, the 28th of May, THE OLYMPIAN ran a front-page story on how Wal-Mart intends to sneak into the south end of Lacey with a "Supercenter" which will sell groceries and will employ only scabs. The scabs will get a few cents more than minimum wage. Wal-Mart will offer much lower prices at first, which will result in the closing of at least one of the two union supermarkets on College Street a quarter-mile away. Since the surviving market will have to lay off store clerks, the number of good jobs lost could reach a hundred or more; when I talked to Ruth Underwood of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) local 367, she estimated the job toll at around 150 jobs. "Neighborhood small businesses close when Wal-Mart opens a store. Aberdeen [Washington] was thriving downtown until Wal-Mart came in, andthe small businesses which had supported families had forever padlocked their doors."

So much for Wal-Mart 'family values.' Barbara Ehrenreich records in her book, *Nickel and Dimed - On (Not) Getting by in America*, "No one gets paid overtime at Wal-Mart, I'm told, though there's often pressure to work it. Many feel the health insurance isn't worth paying for. There's a lot of frustration over schedules, especially in the case of the evangelical lady who can never get Sunday morning off, no matter how much she pleads. And always there are the gripes about managers: the one who is known for sending new hires home in tears, the one who takes a ruler and knocks everything off what he regards as a messy shelf, so you have to pick it up off the floor and start over."

I find it interesting that the employees have to pay for the optional health insurance out of their scab wages. The Walton Foundation, which Wal-Mart funds, endows enough ultraconservative politically active groups around the country to pay outright all of their employee health-care costs and still have enough left over for a robust pension plan. In our state, for example, they bankroll the Evergreen Freedom Foundation, which insidiously attacks - wouldn't you know it - labor laws and labor unions. In particular, they have gane after the Washington Education Association, our foremost stalwart against the advent of voucher-scab schools. Evergreen Freedom Foundation also fights against Washington's prevailing wage law, which forces contractors to pay union scale on state projects. Apparently Evergreen Freedom Foundation wants the freedom to jackhammer the economic foundation of the middle class, thereby setting up a two-tier caste system. (Guess who gets the untouchable end of the stick?)

I don't do well with numbers; Blaine Shervinski does, though. He works for the UFCW as one of their business agents. He ran some numbers by me the other day which all but cured my attention deficit: a grocery clerk earns about $36,000 a year, plus health and welfare benefits amounting to about $8,500 a year, plus vacation pay - which equals more than $2,200, and another $1,100 and change socked into her or his pension plan annually. That adds up to a rather healthful $47,800 in wages and benefits paid out to each journeyman who works a full shift (sans vacation time) for a year. You can't buy a Lincoln Town Car and a time share condo on the Carribean with that kind of money, but you can raise a couple of children, buy a house, send the kids to college, see the doctor when necessary, get a set of false teeth when your teeth go bad, and you can retire on a comfortable nest egg.

Compare that to what a Wal-Mart Associate makes; $17,000 per year, period. A hundred new jobs provided by Wal-Mart nets the community a pretty tidy sum of $1.7 million. Not Bad. But if we lose 150 good paying jobs, a conservative estimate, and we lose that tax base, a whole lot of chuck-holes won't get filled. Schools won't garner enough to supply their music departments with instruments, a big NO to art supplies, ditto on athletic equipment, and an emergency medical call could get re-routed through Timbuktu. In short, if we keep forfeiting jobs to giant scab corporations, we'll end up as a third (or fourth) world country.

The real reason we should oppose that rapacious titan, Wal-mart, however, has less to do with mere money and whether River Ridge's marching band can afford uniforms. The prime motive resides in melancholy. We need not spread it. We already have melancholy in ample supply: a million jobs lost in America each year, 40 to 80 million Americans without health care, more and more of us going homeless every day, a government so fearful of raising taxes on the rich that it waxes increasingly mean-spirited towards the poor. We're stuck with a 'selected' resident of the White House who tells us lies so he can use our children to kill people the world round. Rachel Corrie. Melancholy feelings abound.

If we stand up to Wal-Mart, we can stop them. Gig Harbor did. We can, too. When we "just say no" to the drug of low prices at the expense of our neighbor's happiness, we will win. We should garner our resistance. In such a happy happenstance our little corner of the world will have staved off melancholy and even pushed it back somewhat. An injury to one...

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MEDIA BEAT: THE MEDIA POLITICS OF IMPEACHMENT

Norman Solomon

Early summer has brought a flurry of public discussion about a topic previously confined to political margins — the possibility of impeaching President George W. Bush. The idea is still far from the national media echo chamber, but some rumblings are now audible as people begin to think about the almost unthinkable.

A few generations of Americans are apt to view impeachment as an extreme step. One factor has been John F. Kennedy's widely read 1956 book "Profiles in Courage," which captured a Pulitzer Prize. The book devoted a chapter to lauding Sen. Edmund G. Ross of Kansas, whose "not guilty" vote prevented the Senate from convicting an impeached president, Andrew Johnson, on May 26, 1868.

In real life, Ross — who promptly put the squeeze on President Johnson for a series of patronage appointments — was hardly the idealist that Kennedy's book cracked him up to be. But the chapter's melodrama popularized a negative view of impeachment.

That view was especially strong for nearly 20 years, until a few of President Richard Nixon's lies caught up with him. During many months of the Watergate scandal, throughout late 1972 and 1973, defenders of the president routinely blamed journalists. Republicans insisted that The Washington Post and some other "liberal" news outlets were just trying to make trouble for Nixon — who, after all, had recently won re-election in a landslide.

As the specter of impeachment grew, Nixon diehards insisted that the president was being unfairly targeted — until released tapes of the chief executive made him politically indefensible. When Nixon finally resigned in August 1974, the new president uttered a phrase that instantly became famous. Gerald Ford told the nation: "Our long national nightmare is over."

That's how the news media have tended to portray impeachment, with coverage largely presenting it as an ordeal and devoting a lot of attention to attorneys and vast piles of legal documents. But impeachment is not really about law or even about evidence. It's all about politics.

As a political weapon, impeachment will be used to the extent that the president's foes believe they can get away with it. While the Constitution speaks of "high crimes and misdemeanors," that provision says little about how impeachment will be used. In recent decades, we have seen it utilized as an appropriate tool (against Nixon) and as an instrument of political overkill (against Bill Clinton). In both instances, the media climate determined the possibilities and impacts of impeachment.

In general, the punditocracy is averse to the option of impeachment and reflexively dismisses any such suggestion. Misuses of presidential power — and outright mendacity in the service of policy objectives — are political realities, accepted or even avidly supported as long as they remain within vaguely customary limits. Few editorial writers or other commentators want to risk seeming too far ahead of the media curve by suggesting that the latest presidential deceptions might rise to the level of impeachable offenses.

At the height of the Iran-Contra scandal, in 1987, journalists frequently made excuses for President Ronald Reagan. There was much media talk about the imperative of avoiding another "failed presidency" scarcely a dozen years after Watergate. On "NBC Nightly News," John Chancellor declared: "Nobody wants another Nixon." Chicago Tribune editor James Squires cautioned reporters not to repeat the "excesses" of Watergate. And the relative restraint of The Washington Post and other outlets was symbolized by the fact that the Post's publisher, Katharine Graham, often socialized with the president's wife, Nancy Reagan, and publicly touted her as a dear friend.

Democrats in Congress did little to challenge the demagoguery of fast-talking Jimmy Stewart impersonator Oliver North — the former Reagan aide who was greatly assisted by the news media. North held "an entire nation enthralled" during his congressional testimony, Ted Koppel told ABC viewers. On NBC, Chancellor called it "a terrific performance" that "played in Peoria."

During the Iran-Contra hearings on Capitol Hill, journalists frequently reported as though the proceedings would be inconclusive unless a Perry Mason style of ironclad proof emerged. Longtime political analyst Elizabeth Drew commented on the irony that people were "searching for a smoking gun in a room filled with smoke."

Midway through 2003, there's more than a whiff of smoke as more evidence emerges that President George W. Bush and several of his top foreign policy officials lied about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq during the lead-up to the war. In this context, impeachment is a very reasonable idea. But with Congress run by Republicans — and with news media all too deferential to entrenched power — the chances of a serious investigation in Washington are very slim.

To find out more about Norman Solomon and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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(Patriot Act, continued)

atmosphere of fear and division in the new republic, and it brought out the worst in his conservative supporters. Across the new nation, Federalist mobs and Federalist-controlled police and militia attacked Democratic-Republican newspapers and shouted down or threatened individuals who dared speak out in public against John Adams.

Even members of Congress were not legally immune from the long arm of Adams' Alien and Sedition Acts. When Congressman Lyon - already hated by the Federalists for his opposition to the law, and recently caned in Congress by Federalist Roger Griswold - wrote an article pointing out Adams' "continual grasp for power" and suggesting that Adams had an "unbounded thirst for ridiculous pomp, foolish adulation, and selfish avarice," Federalists convened a federal grand jury and indicted Congressman Lyon for bringing "the President and government of the United States into contempt."

Lyon, who had served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, was led through the town of Vergennes ,Vermont in shackles. He ran for re-election from his 12x16-foot Vergennes jail cell and handily won his seat. "It is quite a new kind of jargon," Lyon wrote from jail to his constituents, "to call a Representative of the People an Opposer of the Government because he does not, as a legislator, advocate and acquiesce in every proposition that comes from the Executive."

Which brings us to today. The possible ray of light for those who oppose the attempts of George W. Bush to emulate John Adams is found in the end of the story of Adams ' attempt to suborn the Bill of Rights and turn the United States into a one-party state:

* The Alien and Sedition Acts caused the Democratic-Republican newspapers to become more popular than ever, and turned the inebriated Luther Baldwin into a national celebrity. In like fashion, progressive websites and talk shows are today proliferating across the internet, and victims of no-fly laws and illegal arrests at anti-Bush rallies are often featured on the web and on radio programs like Democracy Now.

* The day Adams signed the Acts, Thomas Jefferson left town in protest. Even though Jefferson was Vice President, and could theoretically benefit from using the Acts against his own political enemies, he and James Madison continued to protest and work against them. Jefferson wrote the text for a non-binding resolution against the Acts that was adopted by the Kentucky legislature, and James Madison wrote one for Virginia that was adopted by that legislature. Today, in similar fashion, over 100 communities across America have adopted resolutions against Bush's Patriot Act, and, in the spirit of Matthew Lyon, Vermont Congressman Bernie Sanders has introduced legislation to repeal parts of the Act.

*Jefferson beat Adams in the election of 1800 as a wave of voter revulsion over Adams ' phony and self-serving "patriotism" swept over the nation (along with concerns about Adams ' belligerent war rhetoric against the French). Today, even a minor appearance by Howard Dean or Dennis Kucinich - both on record for repealing much or all of the Patriot Act - draws a large crowd. There's a growing conviction across the nation that Dean - or possibly another non-DLC Democrat - can defeat Bush in 2004.

* When Jefferson exposed Adams as a poseur and tool of the powerful elite, the rot within Adams ' Federalist Party was exposed along with it. The Federalists lost their hold on Congress in the election of 1800, and began a 30-year slide into total disintegration (later to be reincarnated as Whigs and then as Republicans). Today, as the Tom Delay and Roy Blount bribery scandals widen, tax cuts for the rich are understood for what they are, and the corporate takeover of America is alarming average citizens, the rot in the Republican Party is more and more obvious. Americans are demanding representation for We, The People, and non-DLC Democrats, Greens, and Progressives can offer it.

* In what came to be known as "The Revolution of 1800" or "The Second American Revolution," Thomas Jefferson freed all the men imprisoned by Adams as one of his first acts of office. Jefferson even reimbursed the fines they'd paid - with interest - and granted them a formal pardon and apology. Today, undoing the Patriot Act and kicking corporate money out of Washington D.C. have become popular progressive and Democratic campaign themes.

The history of John Adams' failed presidency gives hope and encouragement to those committed to real democracy and genuine freedom. History shows that when enough people become politically active, they can rescue the soul of America from sliding into a corrupt, abusive police state.

The future of our nation is now at risk just as much as it was in 1800: It's time to wake up and work to elect and empower politicians interested in real democracy. If we're successful, America may experience a revival every bit as extraordinary as that brought about by Jefferson 's Second American Revolution.

Thom Hartmann (thom at thomhartmann.com) is the author of over a dozen books, including "Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights" and "The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight," and the host of a nationally syndicated daily radio talk show. www.thomhartmann.com This article is copyright by Thom Hartmann, but permission is granted for reprint in print, email, blog, or web media so long as this credit is attached.

The Jade Lantern

Publication of the Green Party of South Puget Sound

Green and Growing in 2003: *Vital activities of Greens across the state*

By Brent McMillan, Jody Haug, and Paula Reynolds-Eblacas

Jody Haug, a USGP delegate, was recently featured in a Seattle Times article, "Feisty peace activist creates a buffer zone" (4/1/2003). The nearly half-page article focused on Jody's work during the seven days of marches and rallies at the Federal Building Plaza in Seattle in March.

Jody is founder of the new Nonviolent Peacekeeper Pool. The Peacekeepers assist in patrolling marches and rallies, helping protesters and their opponents find peaceful resolutions to any disputes that might arise.

Brent McMillan, co-founder of both the Green Party of Seattle and the Green Party of Washington State (GPoWS), was one of the leaders of the largest anti-war march in Seattle history on February 15th. Haug and the Peacekeeper Pool helped patrol the march of 20,000.

McMillan is currently running as the neighborhood candidate for the newly-created Seattle Popular Monorail Authority. McMillan says he hopes to represent neighborhood interests on the Board, including neighborhood plans that might run counter to Monorail expansion plans. The Monorail elections are will be part of the September 16 primary and November 4 general election.

In April, the Green Party of Spokane County hosted a **legal forum on the Patriot Act.** An audience of 250 attended, filling Gonzaga University's "moot court" room with some attendees sitting in the aisles.

Forum presenters from many professions discussed the Act from the perspectives of first amendment rights, criminal justice, privacy, legal ethics, and schools and libraries. They also weighed the possible impacts of the Domestic Security Enhancement Act, or Patriot Act II.

One and a half continuing legal education credits went to practicing lawyers who attended the event.

Steve Hamm represented the Green Party on the Bill of Rights Defense Committee of Jefferson County and Port Townsend. In opposition to Patriot Act civil liberties violations, the Committee submitted a Bill of Rights Resolution to the County Commissioners, who passed the resolution unanimously on June 9.

The County Commissioners have successfully encouraged the Port Townsend city council to move up its hearing of the same resolution and are encouraging the city council to pass it.

Jefferson County joined 122 other cities, towns, counties, and states to pass **resolutions in opposition to Patriot Act civil liberties violations.** Green Party of South Puget Sound is currently preparing an anti-Patriot Act resolution to submit to the Olympia city council.

Several SPS Greens have also been playing leading roles in organizing peace rallies before and during the war. **Chris Stegman**, a member of the GPoWS Coordinating Council, is helping to steer **United for Peace/ Thurston County**, which has 35 member organizations.

GPoWS is currently working statewide to raise awareness and opposition to the state's **Help America Vote Act spending plan**, which as currently written does not require the purchase of electronic voting machines that produce a paper audit trail, nor machines that will allow for Instant Runoff Voting. State residents have until June 27 to comment on the plan.

The **GPoWS spring convention** took place May 31 and June 1. The convention was attended by 53 Greens from 18 Washington counties.

The GPoWS continues to show steady growth, with three new local affiliations – **Kittitas County, Clark County, and Mason County** – since August 2002.

Update on Corrupt FCC Regulations

From Bob McChesney Free Press

There was a significant victory in the Senate Commerce Committee Thursday, June 19, as it voted to **overturn key elements of the corrupt FCC decision** to loosen media ownership rules on June 2. It is due almost entirely to the massive outpouring of public comments – hundreds of thousands in just the past week – opposing the idea of letting fewer media companies own more and more media.

We still have a difficult road ahead. Now the action goes to the entire Senate and the House of Representatives in the coming weeks where we will have to redouble our efforts to finish the job. Go to www.mediareform.net for:

1. clear and comprehensive background information on the issues involved
2. a comprehensive collection of all news articles every day on the media ownership fight (and other media policy issues)
3. updated reports (at least daily) from Capitol Hill insiders on exactly where matters stand with regard to the media ownership fight
4. links to all the organized campaigns to tell members of Congress to represent the public interest, not the interests of massive corporate lobbies, when in come to media ownership rules.

Again, thanks for your help. This victory shows that if we organize, we can win.

McCain/Feingold/ Durbin Broadcast Bill to give candidates free air time

by Paul Taylor and Danielle Brown, Alliance for Better Campaigns

The bill, known as the Political Campaign Broadcast Activity Improvements Act, amends the Communications Act of 1934 in the following ways:

- It requires that television and radio stations air at least two hours a week of candidate-centered or issue-centered programming during the period before elections.
- It enables qualifying federal candidates and national parties to receive up to $750 million worth of broadcast vouchers that can be used to place political advertisements on television and radio stations in each two year election cycle.
- It ensures that candidates receive the same low advertising rates that stations give to their high-volume, year-round advertisers.

The sponsors said they expected no legislative activity this year, but look forward to reintroducing the bill when the 108th Congress convenes next year.

McCain explained further, "the free air time proposal . . . would help de-emphasize large contributions by reducing candidate's dependence on raising money to reach voters. Clearly, our democracy will be improved when a candidate's success is less dependent on money, and more dependent on the value of his or her ideas."

Pacific Northwest Campaign School

The Green Parties of Washingtc State, of Oregon, and of the United States announce this school to be held September 5-7, 2003, at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon.

Sessions already being organized include:

- Writing a Campaign Plan
- Writing a Finance Plan
- Volunteer Coordination
- Media Strategy
- Campus Greens Organizing
- Precinct Organizing
- Rural Organizing
- Being a Great Campaign Treasurer
- Voter registration
- Meeting facilitation

Cost to register is $40 general admi sion, $25 students; scholarships are available. No one will be turned away.

Send check payable to "Pacific Green Party" with attendees' name, address, phone number and email address to:

PNWCS c/o Pacific Green Party
205 SE Grand Ave # 201
Portland, OR 97214

For further information, call 503.235.03000 or email: campaign-school@pacificgreens.org

S14: A Bad Energy Bill

Information from the Friends Committee on National Legislation and U.S. PIRG

The Senate is debating the Energy Policy Act of 2003 (S14). The bill would:

- expand domestic oil and gas pro duction,
- open public lands and the continental shelf to oil and gas production and pipelines, and
- expand subsidies for coal and nuclear energy development.

As it stands, the bill would do relatively little to reduce US oil consump tion or to promote improved energy efficiency or renewable energy sources.

Senators are now planning to offer dozens of amendments, and the debate is expected to continue off and on over the next several weeks. The House has already passed its version of the Energy Policy Act of 2003 (HR 6).

The Green Party of Washington State (Coordinating Committee) has voted to oppose this bill, and has asked members to write their senators in opposition.

To join Green Party of South Puget Sound, go to www.greenparty-sps.org. Click Membership Application, copy, complete and mail in. Questions, ideas, suggestions??? Email us at: gposps@yahoo.com or call us 455-5446.

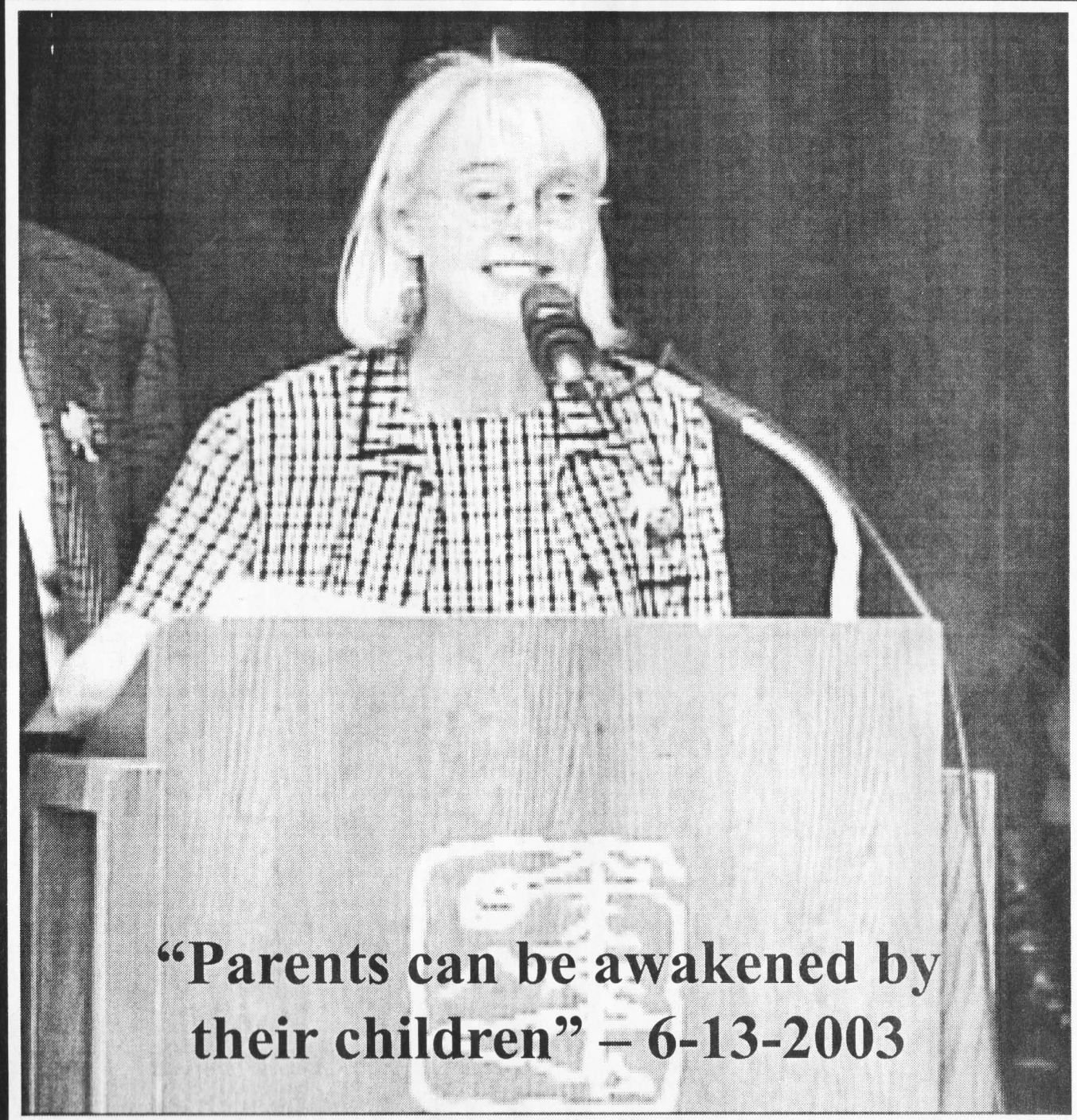
free

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE

W.I.P.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 3 JULY 2003



"Parents can be awakened by their children" – 6-13-2003

1 LEIU-Brutality in Seattle & Remarks for The Evergreen State College Graduation

4 Dissent & Independence Day

6 Community Response to Welfare Cuts

7 How An Earlier "Patriot Act" Law Brought Down A President

8 TESC Graduation 2003: Rachel, Palestine, Israel and Us

10 Forum on the Brewery

11 SEPA Violations in Conference Center Planning

12 United For Peace and Justice Conference

13 Wal-Mart and the UFCW

14 The Media Politics Of Impeachment

The M-1 does MY talking!
Don't make it TALK to YOU!
Freedom of Speech does NOT mean
Freedom to CRITICIZE the Government!
STOP asking Questions!
A Message From The Ministry Of Homeland Security

Works In Progress
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